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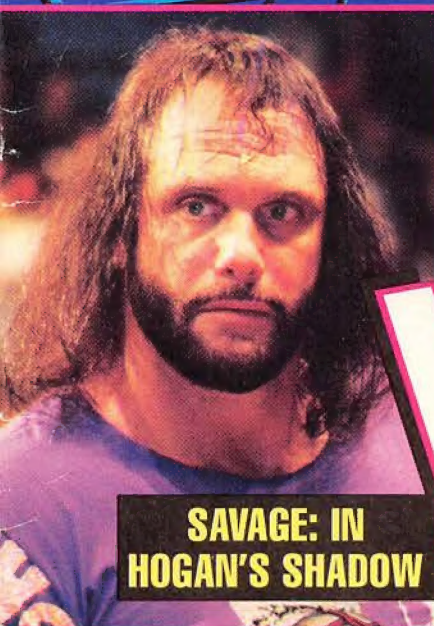
**INSIDE  
WRESTLING**

**Inside**

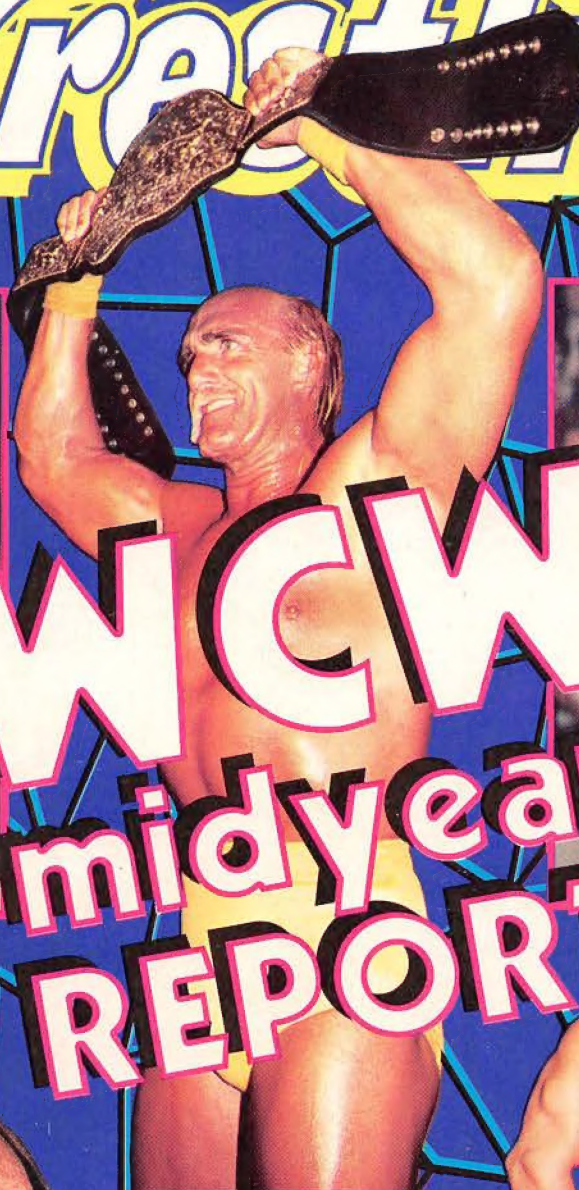
FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

OCTOBER 1995

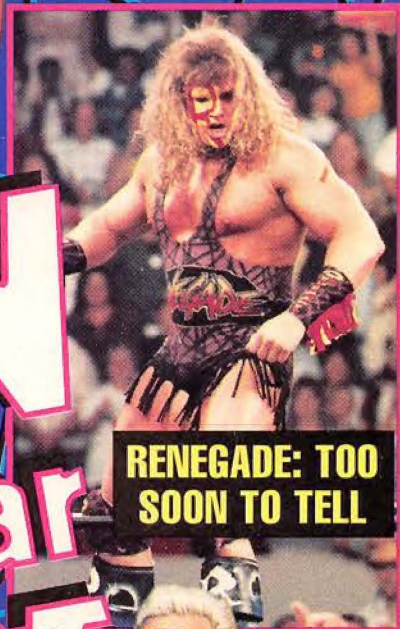
# **Wrestling**



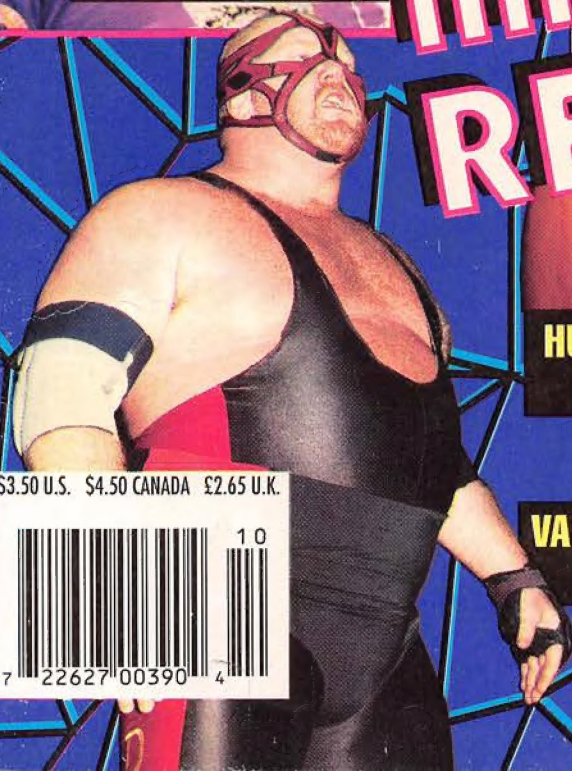
**SAVAGE: IN  
HOGAN'S SHADOW**



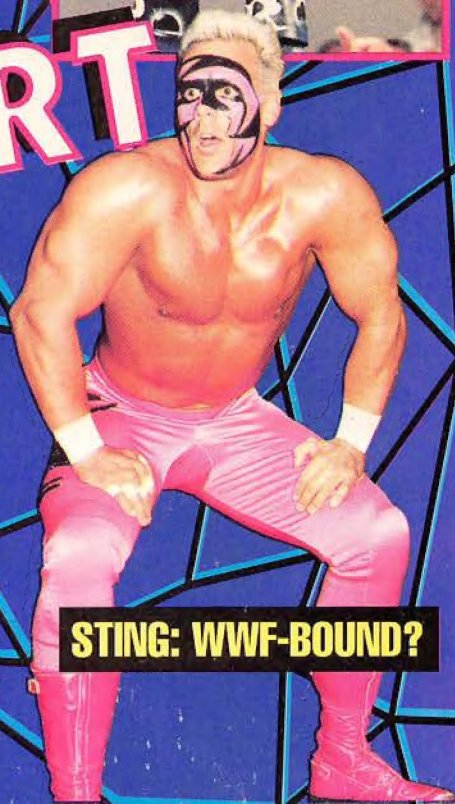
## **WCW midyear REPORT**



**RENEGADE: TOO  
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**STING: WWF-BOUND?**

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**VADER: POWER  
FAILURE**



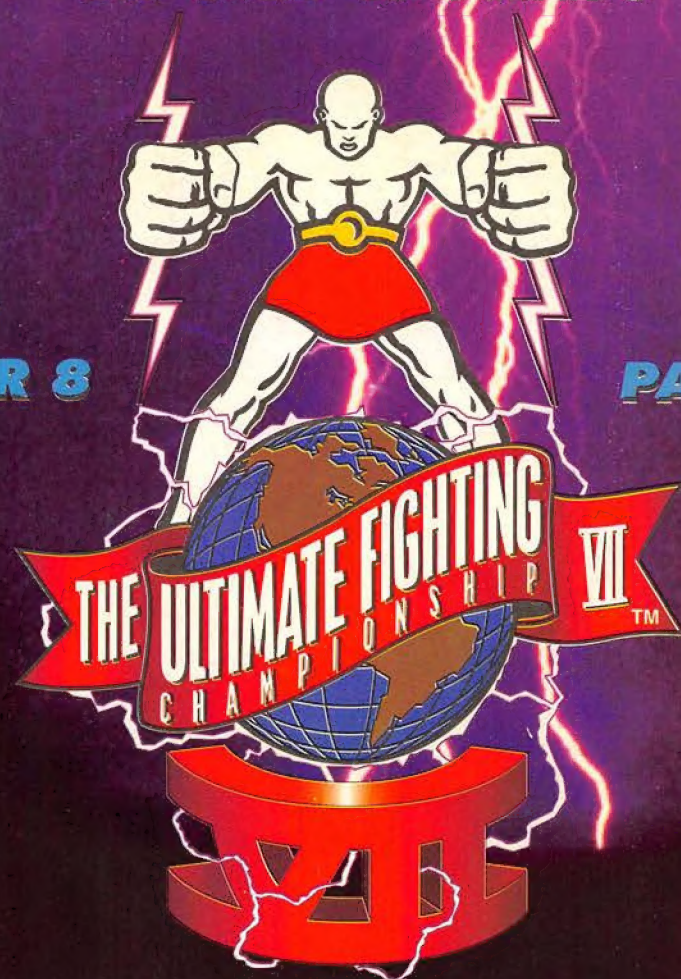
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## Founder

Viciously Overrated: Give Others A Chance; "Stinger" Should Stay

Ted Turner takes aim at the WWF

News and gossip from around the wrestling world

Informed opinions from a tired columnist

Why playing one-on-one hoops with Big Van Vader is a mismatch

The rulebreakers' best friend reacts to recent news

Just another day at the spa with The Blue Bloods

### Tracing the career of Taz

What happened to some of your favorite stars

### Key details from important recent matches

This 'n' that from our globetrotting veteran

## The Road Warriors—Have They Lost Their Killer Instinct?

It was an interesting half-year (to say the least!) in Ted Turner's federation. Who shined? Who failed miserably? We tell you in this offbeat look at the first six months of 1995.

**"I'LL MAKE THEM CRY FOR BRUTALIZING MY FATHER!"**  
Flair and Anderson might live to regret their actions at Slamboree

He'll beat up anyone if you pay him

Had he lost to Big Bubba at Slamboree ...

And it's a secret he'll never forget

He talks about *his* (not The Road Warriors') future in "Hotseat"

You can use it as a foreign object, a launching pad, a ...

The "Louisville Lip" is happy to be bad again

The top 15 rankings in six key categories

Listing the champions from many different federations

## Remembering the late Ilio DePaolo

**PHOTO EDITOR**.....Jason Ross Lavin  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**.....Matt Brock  
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## Kenneth J. Gudaitis

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# Sincerely Yours

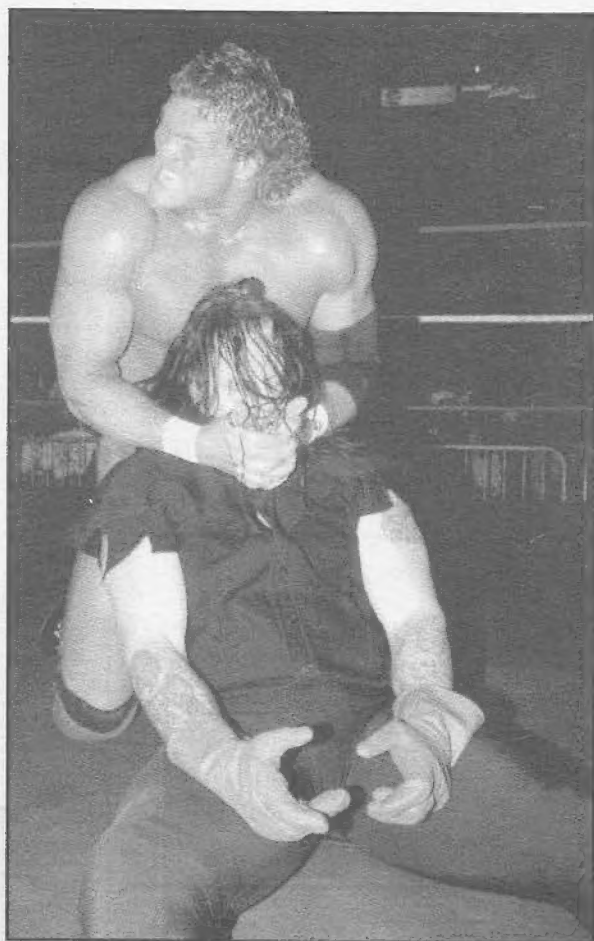
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## VICIOUSLY OVERRATED

After his recent failures in his quest to capture the WWF World title from Diesel, Sid Vicious again proved what an overrated star he really is. Since his pro debut, Vicious has been touted as "the next Hulk Hogan." In reality, Sid has failed miserably. Sid's greatest accomplishment in wrestling came when he won the USWA heavy-weight title, which he lost to an aging Jerry Lawler. In a recent WWF match, Sid even had trouble beating rookie Aldo Montoya.

Given his past record in the WWF and WCW, Sid has proven to be both unreliable and unpredictable. In his past tenures with these major organizations, Vicious threw childish tantrums before he mysteriously left. Last of all, let the fans not forget that Sid once lost to El Gigante in less than five minutes!

**STAN LENKIEWICZ**  
Paramus, NJ



Sid Vicious has struggled lately against The Undertaker and many others. That doesn't surprise reader Stan Lenkiewicz, who has never thought much of "Psycho" Sid.

## GIVE OTHERS A CHANCE

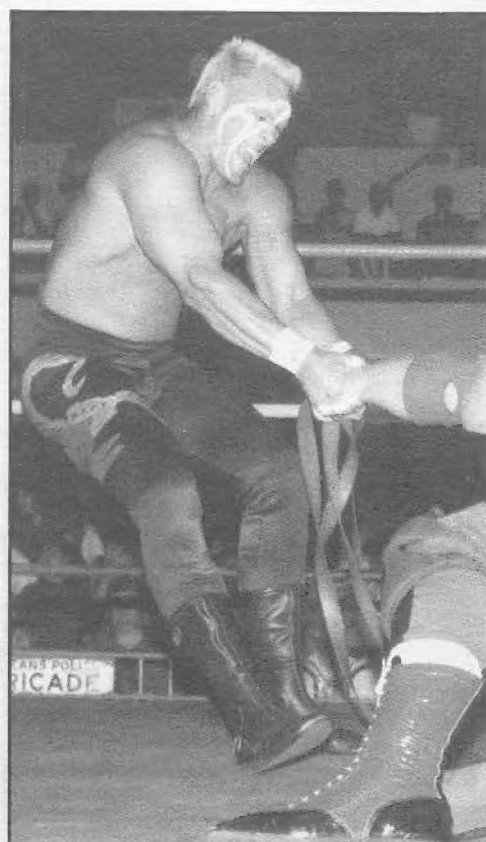
I really like Hulk Hogan, but I believe it is time for him to retire. There are too many people in WCW who are being cheated because he decided to go to that federation. WCW used to be a federation that was fair to both rulebreakers and fan favorites. Now it is just fair to Hulk Hogan. Great wrestlers like Sting and Arn Anderson have been pushed into the shadow of Hogan since he arrived.

The "Hulkster" was a great wrestler, and he still is, but it is time for him to give other people a chance to carry the gold. WCW, it's time to get rid of Hulk Hogan for good.

**OSA UWA**  
Elmont, NY

## "STINGER" SHOULD STAY

I completely disagree with the people who are insisting Sting should go to the WWF so his





career can be revitalized. I hope Sting is smart enough not to listen to people who aren't qualified career counselors. I also hope that WCW officials don't make the mistake of letting their icon go.

Sting should consider the fate of all the other well-established NWA/WCW stars who thought they could do better things when they ventured into Vince McMahon's territory. Former NWA greats like Harley Race, Dusty Rhodes, The Road Warriors, and Ric Flair all made the move, but they quickly learned that it wasn't what they expected. Sure, they all had some success, but what happened next? They all left eventually.

Sting's true fans know that he doesn't need the WWF to win more titles. The U.S. belt is well within his grasp. If he becomes the U.S. champion, it should set him up for a showdown with WCW World champion Hulk Hogan. Sting's true fans know that he

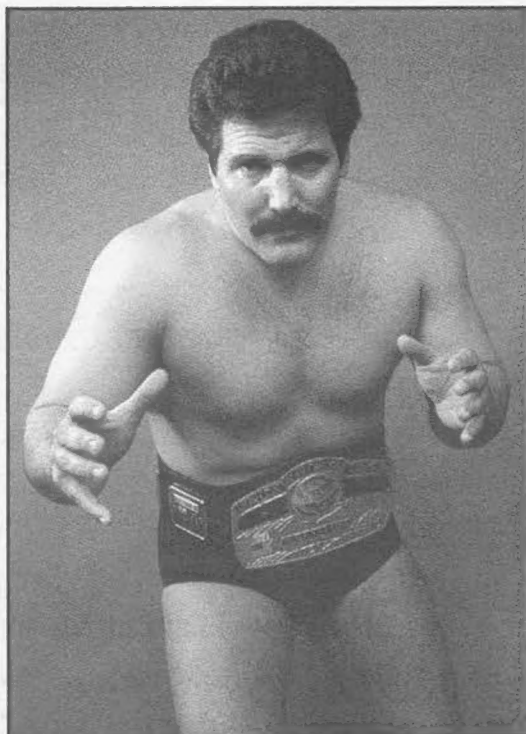
could still be the WCW World champion if given a chance.

LUTHER MARTIN  
North Miami Beach, FL

#### A RESPECTFUL CHAMPION

I am impressed by your positive coverage of NWA heavyweight champion Dan Severn ("Hot-seat," July 1995). Severn is a sparkling example of how good things can come from hard work and dedication. He is a credit to the NWA as well as to the entire wrestling world. I wish him more great success in the future. Give 'em hell, Dan!

ELMER FRASURE  
Grethel, KY



NWA champion Dan Severn is one hard-working athlete. Reader Elmer Frasure wishes other wrestlers would follow his example and show as much dedication as he does.

#### LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

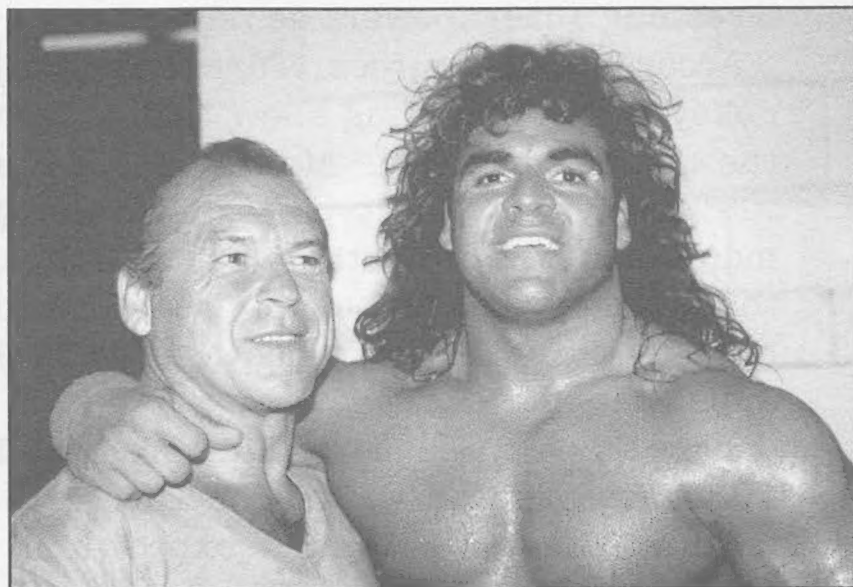
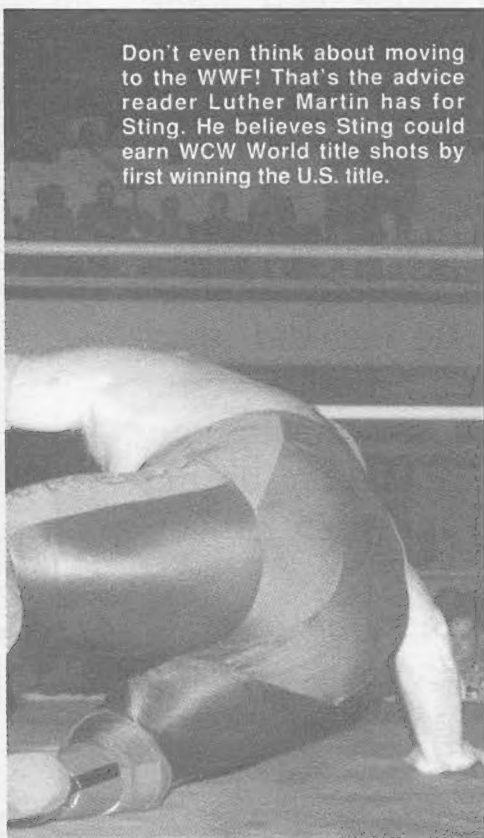
It's great to see a second-generation wrestler like Scott Putski make a name for *himself* ("Ivan Putski: Wrestling In The Shadow Of His Son?," July 1995). He has overcome all the pressure of hav-

ing to follow in his father's footsteps and has established himself as a great wrestler on his own.

I also think that it is admirable there is no animosity between father and son. In fact, Ivan seems

(Continued on page 72)

Don't even think about moving to the WWF! That's the advice reader Luther Martin has for Sting. He believes Sting could earn WCW World title shots by first winning the U.S. title.



Thanks to a little help from his father, Ivan, Scott Putski has become a pretty good wrestler. Reader Fred Twinings admires the family's togetherness and is glad to see Ivan didn't push his son too hard.



# REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Fasten your seat belts, wrestling fans, this is gonna get fun!

Back in my June '95 "Notebook," I wrote about how Vince McMahon seemed to be deliberately trying to step up the war between the WWF and WCW by making inflammatory remarks about Ted Turner. Remember this immortal quote, spoken by McMahon to *Financial World* magazine in comparing his federation to that of Mr. Turner?

"One is ice cream and the other is scooped up behind the elephant at the circus."

My thoughts upon reading that were, if you're Vince McMahon and your federation is in a slump, why stir up the emotions of your top competitor, especially when he has the financial resources and gumption to cause you some real damage? Well, I can't say for sure that Turner is reacting specifically to the *Financial World* article, but he has thrown himself into this battle between professional wrestling's megapowers as never before.

According to sources, Turner didn't just give his okey-dokey to the wrestling show that is to run directly against the highly rated *WWF Monday Night Raw*, he insisted upon it! Turner's not the type to make derogatory public statements about a competitor, but it is well-known throughout the industry that he has no great love for McMahon, dating back to the mid-'80s, when the WWF had its brief run on SuperStation TBS.

Since TBS' purchase of Jim Crockett Promotions back in 1988, we have all waited for Turner to throw a few drop-kicks at the WWF. I didn't expect him to go right for the brass knuckles.



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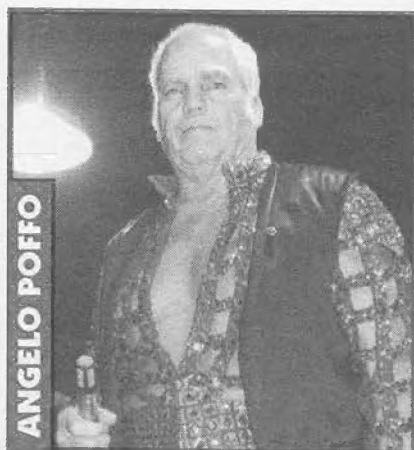
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# NAMES MA



ANGELO POFFO

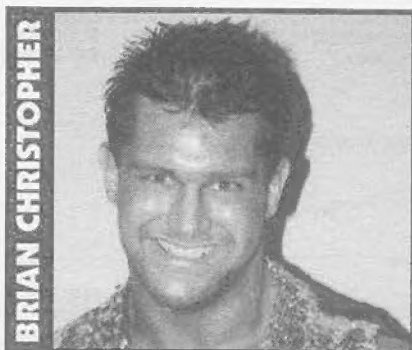
**I** STILL CANNOT believe that World Championship Wrestling has not fined or suspended both **Ric Flair** and **Arn Anderson** for their brutal assault on **Randy Savage's** father, **Angelo Poffo**. The explanation I got from a WCW spokesman boiled down to this: "We are sorry this happened, but Mr. Poffo should not have entered the ring in the first place." Sorry, WCW, that's not good enough for me. Flair and Anderson should pay—with their wallets!

Don't you agree that **Shawn Michaels** is wrestling better than ever since returning from his back and neck injuries? He has convincingly beaten "**Psycho**" **Sid Vicious** several times, and that has sent **Ted DiBiase** and the rest of his **Million-Dollar Corporation** into a frenzy. DiBiase thought for sure that Sid would rid wrestling of both Shawn and WWF World champion **Diesel**. It hasn't happened yet, guys!

It took **Mitsuharu Misawa** about 25 minutes to beat **Stan Hansen** on May 26 to win All-Japan's Triple Crown honors. Misawa won the Pacific Wrestling Federation, All-Japan United National, and All-Japan Inter-

national titles. Don't get too comfortable, Mr. Misawa: Hansen has vowed to get those titles back ... **Austin Steele** had a miserable time trying to win the Pro Wrestling Federation heavyweight title from **Terry Austin** this spring. Just as Steele appeared to have his former tag team partner set up for the pin, **Peggy Lee Leather** and **Madd Maxxine** ran in and attacked him, giving Steele the win by disqualification—but no title. To make matters worse, Austin joined the ladies and, moments later, attacked Steele and left him lying in a pool of his own blood.

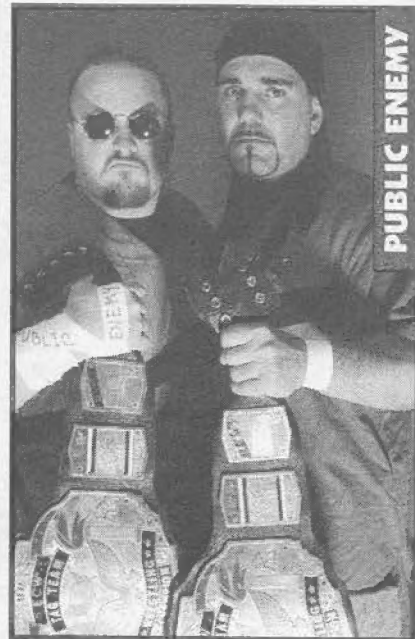
Wrestling lost another great oldtimer this spring. **Adrien Baillargeon**, who won many championships all over the world, died on May 9 in Lafayette, Louisiana. He was 76 years old ... **Brian Christopher** has the USWA Southern belt around his waist again. He convincingly beat **Doug Gilbert** on May 29 in Memphis ... Promoter **Jim Crockett's** Texas NWA promotion has ended its run at the legendary Dallas Sportatorium and will run cards at other venues in that state ... "**Boogie-Woogie Man**" **Jimmy Valiant** is feuding with **Gorgeous George III** in the USWA ... **Public Enemy**—**Rocco Rock** and



BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

**Johnny Grunge**—are still waiting for a reply to a note they sent to Smoky Mountain's **Gangstas**, daring them to come to their home turf—Philadelphia's ECW—for an interederation battle. We contacted **Mustafa Saed**, who told us, "We wouldn't even break a sweat against those two white-trash nobodies!"

WCW is trying to arrange a



PUBLIC ENEMY

rematch between **Ric Flair** and the man who pinned him in front of 190,000 fans in North Korea, **Antonio Inoki**. Promoters are looking for a suitable site in the United States to hold the return match.

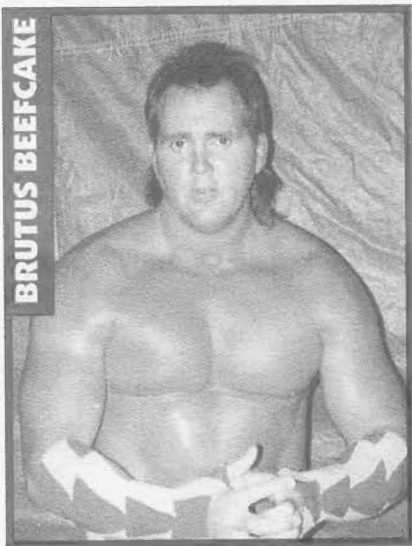
WWF newcomer **Waylon Mercy** sure looks familiar. I know I've seen him before ... **Chris "The Edge" Evans** (formerly **Chris Weider**) and former **Super Jock** partner **Ed Atlas**, the pair who beat **Frank Finnegan** in a handicap match for the World Wrestling Alliance title, are still at each



# KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

BRUTUS BEEFCAKE



other's throats. The title was held up by WWA officials after the duo argued about who would keep it. Evans came out victorious when the two wrestled for the belt.

**Brutus Beefcake** (or "The Butcher," or "The Man With No Name," if you prefer) has signed for a series of matches against **Rick "The Model" Martel** in the WWA. Asked if he was thinking about returning to WCW to renew his feud with **Hulk Hogan**, Beefcake said, "I don't need him anymore. He just used me. But you never know where I might turn up!"

No, I don't like the pirate outfit he wears, but I must admit: **Jean-Pierre Lafitte** does have some sensational moves in his repertoire. Did you see that great move he pulled off on a recent WWF telecast? He tossed his opponent out onto the floor and moonsaulted onto him from inside the ring. Unbelievable! ... Despite rumors to the contrary, **Irwin R. Schyster** has not retired because of back injuries. He recently wrestled on a WWF tour of Singapore and says he has no plans to quit ... On that

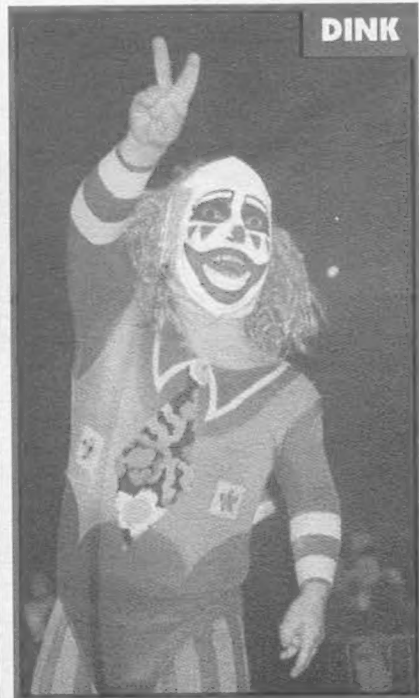
same tour, **The Undertaker** was signed to wrestle **Bam Bam Bigelow**. Although the two of them have become friends, they had some fierce battles in Singapore, with Undertaker emerging victorious each time ... WCW should have put **Dory Funk Jr.** in its Hall of Fame at Slamboree '95. Yes, **Terry Funk** was inducted, but both brothers deserve the honor.

**Techno Team 2000** has beaten all its competition in the WWF so far, and promoters are now trying to convince World tag team champions **Owen Hart** and **Yokozuna** to wrestle them ... **The Great Muta** paid a high compliment to **Alex Wright** after a recent WCW card. "I was thrilled," Wright said. "He told me he loved to watch me wrestle and that he would be honored if I would come to Japan to wrestle him or maybe be his tag team partner for a few matches" ... **Jimmy and Ronnie Garvin** are planning to reunite for a new promotion that is opening soon in Montreal.

As of press time, **Steve Armstrong** held 12 victories by dis-

qualification over Smoky Mountain heavyweight champion **Buddy Landell**. Come on, SMW, don't let Landell get away with this any longer. Let the title change hands on a DQ! ... **Billy Jack Haynes** is again venturing out of the Pacific

DINK



Northwest. Haynes is competing in the USWA, looking for the heavyweight belt, which is currently held by **Jerry "The King" Lawler**. His finishing maneuver, still the full-nelson, packs so much power, his opponents can't help but submit!

Finally, **Dink** has offered his cornerman services to **Alundra Blayze** for Blayze's matches against **Bertha Faye**, who always has **Harvey Whippleman** in her corner. "It would even things up," Dink explained. "One midget in each corner!"

That's all for now. I'll see you at the matches! □

DORY FUNK JR.





**B**USINESS AND PLEASURE always look like a good combination when you are planning a trip, but they usually end up going together about as well as ketchup on a banana split.

You know how these things happen. A relative will do anything to see the new baby, including send two round-trip tickets to Tampa. The departure date is May 20, the day before Slamboree '95 in St. Petersburg. The return date is June 4, which could be the final game of the Eastern Conference finals in Orlando. And the girlfriend, who finally fits into her jeans again after six months of leggings and sweatshirts, really wants a vacation before she goes back to work.

Sure, the relative says, we'd love to babysit. Of course, the publisher says, we'll take care of your press pass. Don't worry, the media relations director

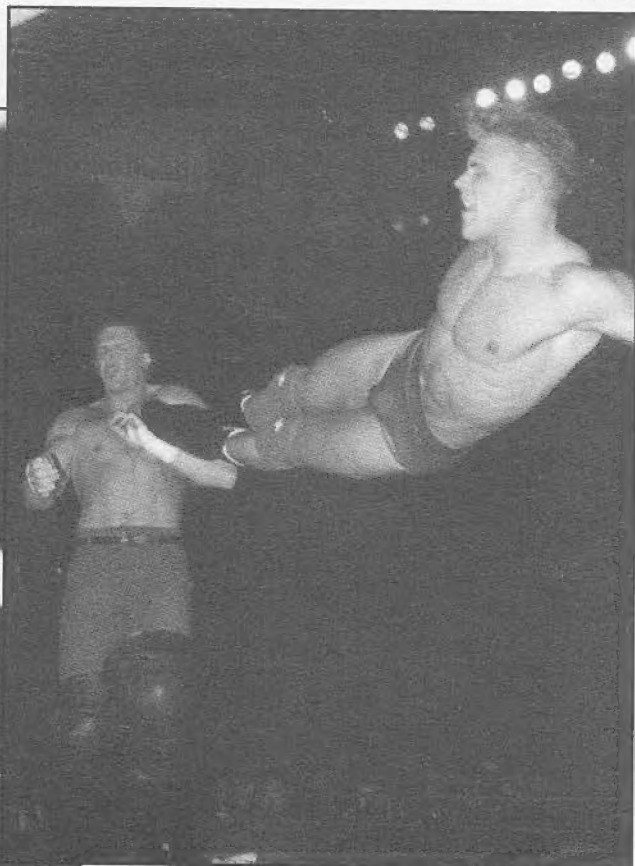
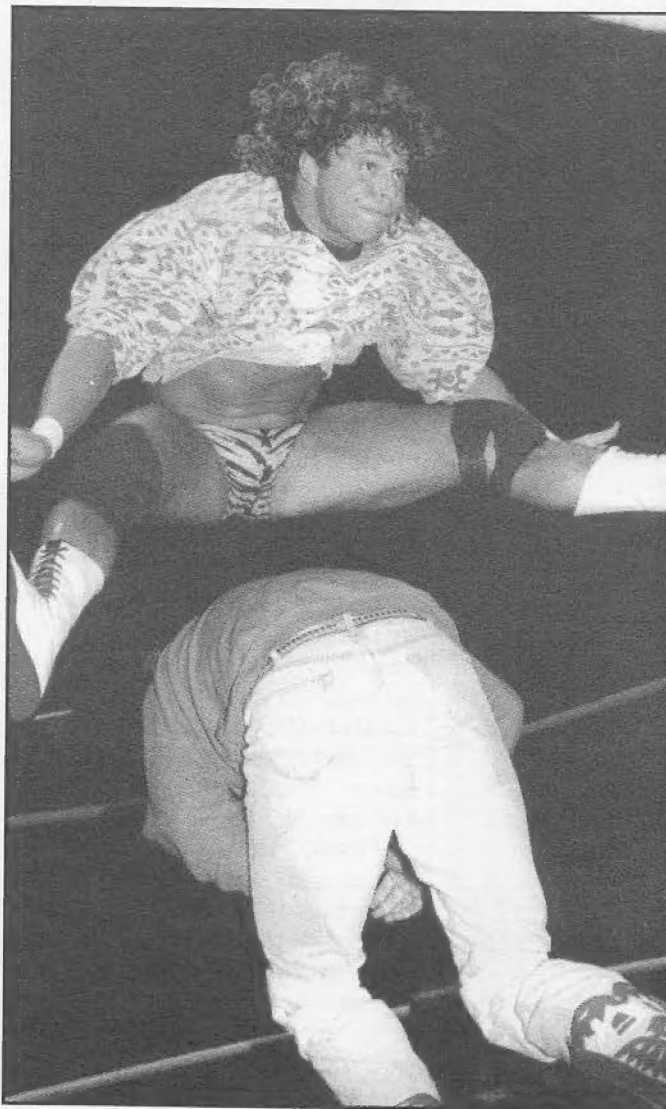
# ON THE ROAD

With Chris Bernucca

says, we'll have a seat for you on press row.

But you know how these things happen. The relative can babysit any night except Sunday, which is the night you have to be across the bay for one of the biggest wrestling cards of the year. Representing the most respected wrestling magazine in the country, you find your seat, which is plainly marked by a card that reads, "Chris Bernstein, *Inside Whistling*."

When you return, you are forced to make nine consecutive diaper changes over the next 24 hours as your girlfriend grouches and grumbles about things being just like they are at home. The Eastern Conference finals go to a seventh game, and you've been able to see



If high-flyers Brian Pillman (left) and Alex Wright (above) succeed in a tournament in Japan, will that success translate into title shots in WCW? Probably not, given the way WCW operates.

each one because it has done nothing but rain from the moment your plane landed in "sunny Florida." Your seat in the Orlando Arena is so far from the court that you are in the ABA. You watch most of the game on the video scoreboard and notice that highly

(Continued on page 74)



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# Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

**H**E WORE THE mask. I don't believe it, but he really wore the mask. Now we're really going to be a spectacle. Here we are, on an inner-city basketball court in Atlanta, getting set to play a little one-on-one, and Big Van Vader shows up wearing that stupid little wrestling mask he always wears in the ring.

Then the passenger side door of his gray Infiniti opens and out steps another person I really didn't want to see: Ric Flair. *Wonderful, I'm thinking. They're going to double-team me; I'm going to end up getting power-bombed onto a concrete basketball court.*

Personally, I'd rather go one-on-one with Shaq. Or, even better, Bill Apter.

But Bill Apter's not here. Nobody's here except me, Flair, and the 6'5", 450-pound Vader. All 450 pounds, and maybe a little more, judging by the bag of fast food he's carrying. Unfortunately, there are no witnesses to this historic sporting event, because basketball's just not my sport, and I don't want any pictures circulating of me falling on my face.

For that reason, you're just going to have to believe what I'm

about to say: Trailing 20-12 in a 21-point game, I hit seven consecutive 25-foot jumpers over the stunned Vader, then put him in his place with a beautiful reverse slam dunk that, I swear, was nearly the cause of a little interference by Flair. Then, with the score tied at 20, I finish off Vader with a left-handed drive to the hoop (I'm right-handed) and a right-handed underhand layup.

Vader is shocked.

I'm lying.

Playing Vader in basketball turned out to be one of the least enjoyable experiences of my professional journalism career, and it's not just because I hate basket-

ball (tennis is my sport; see "No Holds Barred" in the October 1995 issue of *The Wrestler* for a report on my doubles tennis match with Harlem Heat). It was because Vader is big and strong and smelly, and he doesn't like to lose. He doesn't even like to give up points. He cheats, changes the rules, and brings along his good buddy so that if I object to something he does, someone is there to back him up.

You know, this just isn't right. About a year ago, Stu Saks said to the columnists, "You guys have to get out more and do offbeat things with the wrestlers. We've

*(Continued on page 76)*

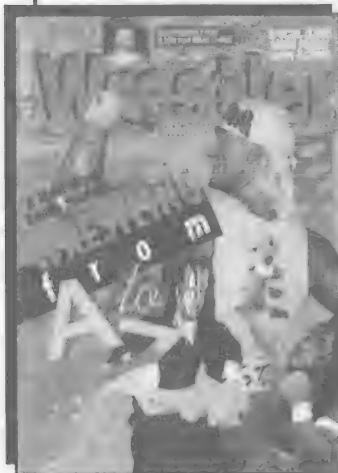


Big Van Vader always wears that mask into the ring with him, though he sometimes discards it halfway through a match. Apparently, he likes to keep it on when he plays basketball.

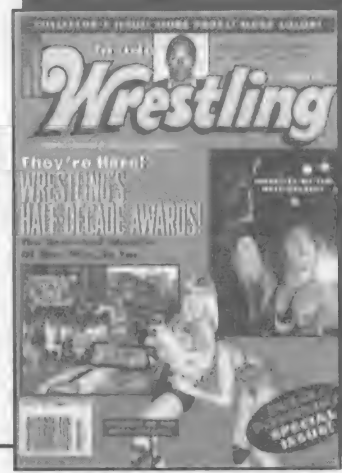


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**SEPTEMBER 1994 WRESTLER** 88 pages of excitement—including the lively and candid "WWF Midyear Report," a review of the WWF through the first half of the year! Includes four color pinups!

**WINTER 1994 WRESTLER** includes the must-read bonus section, "Wrestling From A To Z"—an alphabetical array of wrestling trends and turmoil! Four full-color pinups complete this sensational 88-page package!

**MARCH 1990 INSIDE WRESTLING** looks back at the decade of the '80s with a dazzling eight-page full-color section and a year-by-year review of the most significant events in the sport. Must reading for all fans!

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# the Insider

by Eddie Ellner



Jeff Jarrett, Intercontinental champion. A great wrestler? Maybe, maybe not, but the guy is multitalented. You don't find many wrestlers in the WWF who can do one thing well, let alone two.

LIZ HUNTER'S NAIVETE never fails to astound me. She actually thinks I would travel halfway across this great country of ours to attend a convention full of beer-gut liposuction candidates, mental defectives, and ghoulish worshipers otherwise known as the Indianapolis 500. Hell, if that's the company I crave,

I'll just buy a ticket to the nearest wrestling match in town.

No thanks. During my week off from traveling with Liz, I flew off to Boston to attend the Harvard Law School graduation and watched proudly as my brother received his diploma. Free legal advice for the rest of my life, baby! After some mover-and-shaker schmoozing,

my Toshiba laptop and I retired to the banks of the River Charles from where, among the rollerblading eggheads, Frisbee-catching mutts and nubile young coeds, I write these words just for you:

**NEWS ITEM: Jeff Jarrett recaptures the Intercontinental championship.**

As often as he sets himself up for ridicule, Jarrett manages, somehow, to remain a credible competitor. It seems like he just rolled into town, and already he has collected three Intercontinental titles? His singing ain't bad, either.

Could he be the prototype for Vince McMahon's sports/entertainment empire? Will all his wrestlers in the future be required not only to succeed in the ring, but also to have a secondary talent to fulfill the entertainment part of their contracts? Perhaps that's the reason Hulk Hogan left the WWF. His wrestling was good enough, but he couldn't act worth a dime.

I can see the promo posters now: Tonight! Texas Death Match: Terry Funk vs. Big Van Vader! After the match, Vader will join the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on violin for a Mozart concerto!

**NEWS ITEM: Dusty Rhodes inducted into WCW Hall Of Fame.**

I can't rightly expect the Hall Of Fame committee people (who *are* they, anyway?) to deny entry to a three-time NWA World champion. But I can hope. In his prime—which lasted about 35 minutes—Rhodes was a fiery competitor who didn't mind using his face as a punching bag so long as he could land one or two good ones in the exchange.

The strategy worked. He ended up one of the ugliest athletes of our time and in between managed

(Continued on page 78)



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Sting hails from which California beach community?

- 1) Malibu
- 2) Pacific Heights
- 3) Venice Beach
- 4) Newport Beach

Who managed The Moondogs to the WWF World tag team title?

- 1) The Grand Wizard
- 2) Capt. Lou Albano
- 3) Fred Blassie
- 4) Bobby Heenan

True or False: Rick Steamboat once briefly held the AWA World title.

- 1) True
- 2) False

Which of the following wrestlers has never held the WCW television title (as of December 31, 1994)?

- 1) Sting
- 2) Steve Austin
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) Scott Steiner

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$100!\*

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Call as often as you like. The contest begins June 1, 1995, and runs through October 31, 1995. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is \$1.49 per minute in the United States, \$1.99 in Canada, and 49p (39p cheap rate) in the United Kingdom. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PWI TRIVIA, P.O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333, USA. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one \$100\* winner. (\*Or for U.K. winners, the equivalent in pounds sterling at the time the winner is selected.) From June 1, 1995, until October 31, 1995, a total of 12 PWI six-issue subscriptions (retail value \$15 each) will be awarded. London Publishing Co. will select the winners. No substitutions allowed.

# ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter



Earl Robert Eaton and Lord Steven Regal are two "noblemen" who don't mind getting sweaty and dirty if that's what it takes to win a title. They also like an occasional visit to a spa.

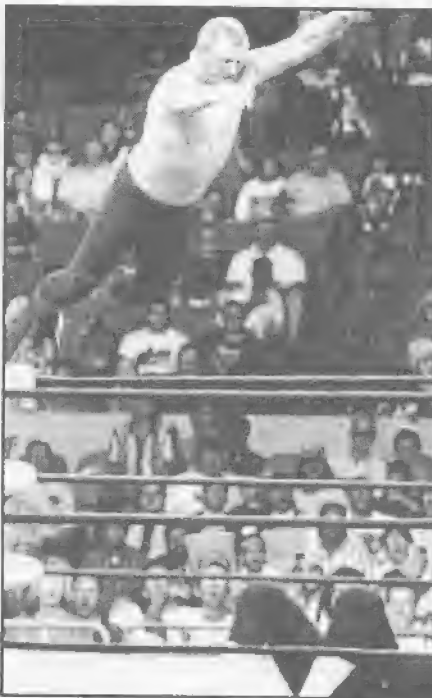
**P**HEWWWWWW! After more than a month on the road, my benevolent editors have granted me a week off. I shot right over here to the Geyser Ranch Health Spa in Arizona, light years from Ellner's incessant smothering. Let him enjoy the peace and quietude of the Indy 500 all he wants. Why anyone in his right mind would choose to watch grown men lap an oval 500 times in speeding tin cans is beyond me, but then no one I know has ever accused Ellner of being in his left mind, let alone his right.

Forget the Grand Canyon—it lies a few miles to the west—because this joint should be one of the Natural Wonders of the World. Gourmet food, lavish rooms, 24-

Regal's mat skills and array of suplexes (above right) coupled with Eaton's aerial prowess (right) make *The Blue Bloods* a pretty good team. Eaton still isn't sure how long this partnership will last, though.

hour Thai-yoga massage, heart-breaking sunsets, and a huge of staff of men and women with doctorates in pampering.

Geyser is known for its rejuve-



nating sulfur mudbaths, and I had just emerged from one—my skin still pink and tingling—and was headed toward the herbal showers when who should I run into but *The Blue Bloods*.

"What the hell are *you* doing here?" I blurted out, making sure my robe covered everything that needed to be covered.

"Men of our breeding must maintain a certain elegance in appear-

(Continued on page 80)

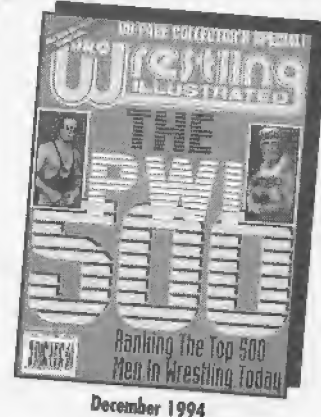




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Every wrestling fan knows that *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is the leading wrestling magazine in the world today, and no issues of *PWI* are more coveted than our incredible special issues. For a limited time only, you can complete your collection of these historic color-packed editions for only **\$5 per copy!** Supplies are very limited, so order today!



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**MARCH 1990** A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1989—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '89 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1989, predictions for 1990, and more!

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**MARCH 1994** A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1993—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '93 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1993, and predictions for 1994.

**JUNE 1994** This 88-page special edition features a bonus section: Wrestling insiders answer 50 crucial questions in the 1994 "PWI Poll!" Plus: exclusive photos of Sting vs. Hogan! Yes—Sting vs. Hogan!

**SEPTEMBER 1994** A spectacular 88-page celebration of 15 years of *PWI*! Included: The best and worst of the *PWI* years, major title changes of the *PWI* years, a year-by-year review—in color!—and much more!

**DECEMBER 1994** This 88-page collector's edition features the fourth annual installment of the "PWI 500"—a comprehensive listing of the top 500 men in the sport! Plus: A special Hogan-Flair poll!

**MARCH 1995** Our annual 100-page year-end extravaganza! Included: "1994—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '94 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1994, and predictions for 1995.

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# INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE <sup>232</sup>

## TAZ

**A**FTER YEARS OF passing himself off as a savage from Tasmania, Taz recently revealed on an ECW telecast that his real name is Peter Senerchia ... Former ECW TV and tag team champion claims he used the Tasmaniac name because of his respect for the people of Tasmania, a country where his style of wrestling—one favoring judo, takedowns, and suplexes—is commonly taught as a method of self-defense (*"As a wrestler, I wanted to be larger than life and to intimidate others; now I'm confident enough to tell the truth about myself"*) ... New York native won several amateur championships while in college ... Made his pro debut eight years ago and has competed in numerous Northeastern independents, Smoky Mountain Wrestling, Puerto Rico, various Japanese federations (including New Japan and W\*ING), and Australia (*"Wrestlers all over the world respect and fear me!"*) ... Compensates for his lack of size (he's 5'9", 221 pounds) with incredible energy, strength, determination, and a high threshold for pain ... Has more different kinds of suplexes than perhaps any wrestler based in North America (*"I know of many wrestlers who refused to face me because they feared my suplexes"*) ... Under the guidance of Tony Rumble, held the New England-based IWCCW light heavyweight title for more than six months in 1991 (*"This light heavy-weight will take on any heavy-*

*weight!"*) ... Was feared from the moment he entered ECW several years ago ... Feuded with Tommy Dreamer and held his own in matches against Sabu ... Attacked Sabu during an autograph session before an independent card in October 1993 (*"A great moment!"*) ... Finally won a title in ECW when he teamed with Kevin Sullivan to beat Dreamer and Shane Douglas (who was subbing for Johnny Gunn) for the ECW tag team title on December 4, 1993 (*"I could see the evil inside Sullivan's soul from the first day I met him!"*) ... The two of them lost the belts to Public Enemy three months later, but Taz won the ECW TV title from Sabu on the same card, only it to lose it to J.T. Smith hours later ... Went on to feud with Pit Bull Psycho

Mike and show he was a master of dog-collar matches ... Patched up his differences with Sabu, and they formed a team and went after The Pit Bulls ... They won the ECW tag title together by beating Public Enemy in an unbelievable match in which the only way to win was to smash both opponents through a wooden table (*"Just another fun night at the matches!"*) ... They lost the belts to Chris Benoit and Dean Malenko three weeks later, however ... Taz, with manager Paul E. Dangerously, is currently pursuing the ECW TV title, which was held at press time by Eddy Guerrero ... Still visits Tasmania on occasion to sharpen his skills ... Has warned everyone to stay out of his "Path Of Rage" (*"Anyone who gets in my way will be obliterated!"*). □



Taz isn't actually the uncivilized savage he used to pass himself off as, but he definitely is a master of all kinds of suplexes. The victim here is Shane Douglas.





**T A Z**

# Where Are They NOW

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## THE SHEIK

The legendary 69-year-old Sheik, whom many consider to be the most sadistic wrestler ever, does still wrestle. He did, however, suffer a heart attack in Tokyo in May after wrestling the previous two nights for Frontier Martial Arts. He

spent several days in a hospital in Japan before returning home to continue his recovery. "I will not retire!" he said through his interpreter. "I will continue to hurt people until my last day on Earth!"



## DAVID SAMMARTINO

The son of Bruno Sammartino, David dropped out of the wrestling spotlight a few years ago to pursue a career as a personal trainer in Atlanta. He opted to give wrestling another try when he was contacted by promoter

Dennis Coraluzzo. David, who competed in the WWF in the 1980s, was convinced by Coraluzzo to come to the NWA, where he has wrestled on a few cards. "I'm almost ready to pursue a full-time wrestling career again," Sammartino said.



## KEITH AND KENT COLE

The talented twins who have always been favorites of female fans, yet never rose above mid-card status in WCW several years ago, still wrestle occasionally in several Southern independents. They may have also found a

second career, as they recently appeared together in TV commercials for Carpet Outlet U.S.A. in Atlanta. "We think we have a great future in Hollywood," said Keith. "If Hulk Hogan can make it as an actor, so can Kent and I!"



## S.D. JONES

"Special Delivery" Jones, a star in the WWF in the early-1980s, recently made an appearance at an IWF card in Brentwood, New York. He was happy to report to his fans that he is still active on the independent circuit in

the Northeast. He also periodically competes for the Pennsylvania-based WWWA, and his headbutt is as powerful as it was a decade ago. "Wrestling is in my blood," he said. "I hope to step up my schedule of appearances later in '95!"



# COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Wrestling historians, rejoice! Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than a decade—but a recent transfer of warehouse inventory from New York to Pennsylvania uncovered a small supply of these classic publications! Obviously, supplies are extremely limited, so all magazines will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis only. Prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the number of available copies. For speediest service, use VISA or MasterCard or make payment by money order or certified check. Please don't send cash! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a memorable piece of wrestling history! Once they're gone, they'll never be offered for sale again—so order today!

## WRESTLING REVUE

Published between 1959 and 1964, *Wrestling Revue* is acknowledged as one of the finest series of wrestling magazines ever produced. These beautiful editions, all edited and published by Stanley Weston (founder of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, *The Wrestler*, and *Inside Wrestling*, among so many other titles) set a standard for all wrestling magazines that followed, and are available now for the first time in many years!

**Fall 1961** Edouard Carpentier challenges Floyd Patterson, Bruiser vs. Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Zebra Kid, killer holds, action at The Kiel, Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dr. X, and full-color action of the Bastiens vs. Shires & Nelson. **\$25**

**December 1961** An extensive Buddy Rogers interview, Bobo Brazil, Fred Blassie, Pepper Gomez, the Torres brothers, Whipper Watson, "Sailor" Art Thomas, Ricki Starr, plus a full-color centerfold of Mark Lewin & Don Curtis. **\$35**

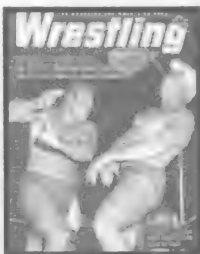
**February 1962** Dick Beyer, Mitsuo Arakawa, Edouard Carpentier vs. Lou Thesz, Angelo Poffo, a five-girl battle royal, Don and Jackie Fargo, Billy Zabyszko, Larry Chene, plus a full-color centerfold of Guy & Joe Brunetti. **\$30**

**April 1962** Wilbur Snyder, Luis Martinez, Madison Square Garden closeup, Yulie Brynner, Billy Wolfe, Don Leo Jonathan vs. Pat O'Connor, closeup on midgets, plus a full-color centerfold of Bearcat Wright. **\$30**

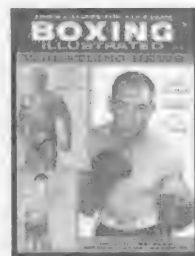
**June 1962** Eddie Graham, Verne Gagne, wrestlers vs. boxers, Dory Dixon, Yukon Eric, Tony Lanza, Lorraine Johnson vs. Kay Noble, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard, The Crusher, plus a full-color centerfold of Red Bastien. **\$25**

**December 1963** The Destroyer, "Maniac" Mark Lewin, Paul Diamond, Ernie Ladd, Judy Grable, Bill Watts, Pat O'Connor, Don Duffy, The Scufflin' Hillbillies, plus a full-color centerfold of Lou Thesz. **\$35**

**February 1964** Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. **\$35**



## BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS



In November 1958, Stanley Weston launched *Boxing Illustrated/Wrestling News*, an innovative concept in sports magazines. Each issue's content consisted of approximately 60 percent boxing and 40 percent wrestling, resulting in the most complete magazine for ring aficionados the world has ever known.

**May 1959 Boxing:** Ray Robinson, James Jeffries, Rube Vargas, Willie Pep, Joey Maxim, Denny Moyer. **Wrestling:** Gene Stanlee, Larry Hamilton, Happy Humphrey, "Cowboy" Bob Ellis. **\$25**

**June 1959 Boxing:** Gene Fullmer, Jack Britton, Gustav Scholz, Mauro Vazquez, Rocky Graziano. **Wrestling:** Buddy Rogers, Don Leo Jonathan, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Omayo Kato. **\$35**

**September 1959 Boxing:** Carmen Basilio, the perfect kayo, Tiger Flowers, Joe Brown, Paolo Rosi. **Wrestling:** Edouard Carpentier, Ricki Starr, Enrique Torres. **\$25**

**October 1962 Boxing:** Special edition previewing the Floyd Patterson vs. Sonny Liston bout! **Wrestling:** "Handsome" Johnny Barend, Andre Drapp, "Sailor" Art Thomas, five pages of results. **\$30**

**October 1963 Boxing:** Cassius Clay, Joe Lynch, Frankie Narvaez, Tommy Loughran. **Wrestling:** Crusher vs. Verne Gagne, Tony Manous, The Dirty Daltons, results. **\$25**

**February 1964 Boxing:** Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, 1963 in review, Cassius Clay. **Wrestling:** Bruno Sammartino vs. Gorilla Monsoon, Emile Dupre, Bruiser vs. Bob Ellis, results. **\$30**

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# NEWS FROM THE

**MEMPHIS, TN**  
**BY CHUCK MORRIS**



**JERRY LAWLER**  
**VS.**  
**BRICKHOUSE BROWN**



Jerry Lawler battled Brickhouse Brown in an exciting bout that ended in a wild melee. Brown gained initial control, backing Lawler into a corner where Brown's manager, Downtown Bruno, held on to his tights as Brown punched him. Brown then draped Lawler's neck over the ropes and distracted the referee while Bruno choked him. Lawler retaliated with wicked right hands to Bruno's head, knocking Bruno from the ring apron. Lawler then started on Brown, nailing him with a flying fistdrop and attempting a pin. Bruno entered the ring and joined Doug Gilbert and Brian Lee in attacking Lawler. Bill Dundee, PG-13, and Brian Christopher aided Lawler, who won by disqualification.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Max Muscle pinned T. D. Steele ... Brian Christopher defeated Brian Lee by disqualification ... Mr. World Class defeated The Yellow Jacket ... Wolfie D pinned Gorgeous George III.

**BOSTON, MA**  
**BY JIM IMBRUGLIA**



**SID VICIOUS**  
**VS.**  
**DIESEL**



The WWF's final card at the Boston Garden saw World champion Diesel defend against Sid Vicious with Ted DiBiase. Early on, Diesel attacked Sid. DiBiase interfered, but when Diesel took a swing at him, Sid nailed Diesel. The action continued all over the ring area. Sid gained an advantage, locking Diesel in a camel clutch twice, but Diesel broke it both times. Tatanka came in to aid Sid, but collided with him. Diesel pinned Sid for the victory.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Hunter Hearst Helmsley pinned Phil Apollo ... The Bushwhackers beat The Heavenly Bodies ... Man Mountain Rock beat Kwang ... The Roadie pinned Bob Holly ... Jacob & Eli Blu beat The Headshrinkers ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Tatanka ... Intercontinental champion Jeff Jarrett beat Razor Ramon in a ladder match ... Bret Hart & Davey Boy Smith beat Jerry Lawler & Hakushi ... The Undertaker pinned Kama.

**SAN ANTONIO, TX**  
**BY DAVID MILLER**



**CHRIS ADAMS**  
**VS.**  
**ICEMAN KING PARSONS**



This main event lumberjack match started slowly as "Iceman" King Parsons constantly sought refuge in the ropes. Every time Chris Adams got the advantage, Parsons would taunt one of the lumberjacks, distracting the referee so he could pummel Adams. Several times Parsons exited the ring closest to his allies. During one of Parsons' many time-outs, though, all of the lumberjacks brawled and he was caught in the middle of the fight. Parsons was unable to make it back into the ring before the 10 count expired and Adams was awarded the victory.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Tarzan Taylor defeated Dusty Wolfe by countout ... Misty Michaels pinned Swedish Bombshell Erika ... Devon Michaels defeated Virgil by countout ... Bobby Perez & Killer Tim Brooks wrestled to a no-contest ... Action Jackson defeated The Viking by disqualification ... Tag team champions The Fabulous Freebirds defeated The Razor Blades.



# WRESTLING CAPITALS

**KNOXVILLE, TN**  
BY HOMER EARLESON



**RICK MORTON**  
VS.  
**AL SNOW**



Rick Morton of The Rock 'n' Roll Express and Al Snow, a Smoky Mountain tag team champion along with Unibomb, faced off in a scaffold match at SMW's Volunteer Slam IV. Snow attacked Morton even before they climbed the scaffold. Morton chased Snow up the scaffold and proceeded to try to knock Snow off while tenuously maintaining his own balance. Several times during the match, both men were in danger of plunging off the 20-foot-high scaffold. Finally, Morton knocked Snow off balance and sent him crashing to the mat to gain the win.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Bobby Blaze defeated D-Lo Brown ... Steve Armstrong defeated SMW heavy-weight champion "Nature Boy" Buddy Landell by disqualification ... USWA tag team champions PG-13 defeated Tony Anthony & Tracey Smothers on a reversed decision ... Bob Armstrong & Terry Funk defeated the Gangstas in a Texas death match.

**NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV**  
BY JANE INGRIN



**SABU**  
VS.  
**JIM NEIDHART**



National Wrestling Conference champion Sabu made his first title defense against challenger Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart in what turned out to be an exciting bout of highly contrasting styles. Sabu used a wide array of aerial maneuvers to inflict pain on "The Anvil" and he clearly had the advantage throughout the entire match, but Neidhart did his best to keep up with the grueling pace that Sabu had set earlier in the match. After soundly defeating Neidhart to retain the title, Sabu performed his ritual of crashing through three ringside tables as the fans at ringside cheered him on.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Zuma defeated The Samurai Warrior ... The Navajo Kid defeated Johnny Paine by disqualification ... Larry Powers beat Lil Haystacks ... Bobby Bradley & Rob Van Dam defeated Blackhawk & Kerry Love ... Junkyard Dog defeated The Iron Sheik ... Virgil defeated Honky Tonk Man by disqualification.

**MIFFLINTOWN, PA**  
BY MELISSA JONES



**CACTUS JACK**  
VS.  
**TERRY FUNK**



Cactus Jack defeated Terry Funk in a wild grudge match. Before the bout began, Cactus grabbed the house mic and challenged Funk to leave the ring and to wrestle him outside the ring. Funk obliged and the two began to pummel each other all over the gym. Once the action finally made it into the ring, Cactus nailed Funk with a DDT and covered him for a two-count. Funk quickly turned the momentum in his favor by grabbing a chair and bashing Cactus in the leg with it. Once he weakened the leg, he continued his onslaught with a spinning toe-hold. Cactus reversed it into a rollup for the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Ron Simmons beat Shane Douglas ... Sandman pinned Mikey Whipwreck ... Marty Janetty pinned Jim Neidhart ... Tommy Dreamer pinned Raven ... ECW Television champion Eddy Guerrero beat Dean Malenko ... ECW tag team champions The Public Enemy defeated The Pit Bulls.



## Matt Brock's **Plain** *Speaking*

**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**

**F**ive years ago, Road Warrior Hawk would have been licking his chops at the prospect of wrestling Meng, but let's not talk about the past. Let's talk about the present, when a mediocre talent like Meng gave Hawk all he could handle for about five minutes at Slamboree '95 and came out of it with a double-countout. That should be considered a victory for Meng and a loss for Hawk, who not so very long ago was taking Ric Flair to the limit in NWA World heavyweight title matches. The mighty have fallen, and I'm talking about both Hawk and Flair. Any talks of a full-fledged comeback by The Road Warriors have to be quieted until Hawk and Animal prove they're even half of what they once were. People think the Warriors were all mayhem and violence, but they always had a plan, and Hawk rarely allowed things to

get out of hand like they did against Meng. This should have been the first stage of Hawk's resurgence, but if you ask me, he looked like an undisciplined rookie.

**A** lot of those cliches that editors hate so much do apply to wrestling. Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me. You can't teach an old dog new tricks. You can't tell a book by its cover. Well, you could *always* tell Jim Cornette by his cover, he's one old dog that you can't teach new tricks, and he's fooled so many people so many times that anyone who still gets fooled by Cornette is nothing but a damn fool himself. You can place Bob Armstrong in that category. "Bullet" Bob walked into an ambush when he got attacked by Cornette and Terry Funk here at "Volunteer Slam IV," which had nothing to do with charity. Tennessee is the Volunteer State, and on this night, Cornette volunteered to help Funk attack Armstrong after a match. Dumb move, "Bullet," teaming with Terry Funk under *any*

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL**



**MENG CHOPS HAWK**



circumstances, even if the supposed goal is to gain revenge on The Gangstas. Anybody with half a mind could tell that the team of Funk and Armstrong was a recipe for trouble ... trouble for Armstrong, especially. Cornette stood in their corner, which only added to the danger, and before Armstrong knew it, he was sporting some pretty nasty bruises on all parts of his body. By the way, this attack occurred two days before Funk was inducted into the WCW Hall of Fame, and if you're wondering why Funk was deemed worthy of induction, it's because he's not only one of the best wrestlers this sport has ever seen, he's also one of the most ruthless. "You know, Matt, I should've known something was up when I saw Funk and Cornette over talking in a corner of the locker room before the match," Armstrong told me. "When I walked up to them, they hushed up real fast." And he still teamed with Funk. Fool you a million times, Armstrong.

**B**ack at ECW Arena for another night of mayhem and guess who I ran into. "Uncle Matt!" she screeched at me, loud enough for half the arena to hear. "How come you didn't tell me you were coming to Philadelphia?!" Now there is a stupid question, but leave it to my niece, Brandi Mankiewicz, to ask all the stupid questions, and you know there's more coming because she has a notebook in her right hand and a pen in her left. Off the record, I'm in Philadelphia because Sheila Warner is passing through on her way to Washington, D.C., to see some relatives, and we figured this would be a good way to kill some time. On



CACTUS VS. SANDMAN

the record, I'm here to see if Cactus Jack can survive another night in ECW and another match against The Sandman. He can on both counts, but just barely. Meanwhile, I survive because just as Brandi's about to tear into one of her never-ending monologues, Sheila comes walking up. Introductions: "Sheila, this is my niece Brandi, Brandi, this is my ..." I'm confused. "... lady friend," Sheila interrupts. "And it's so nice to meet you, Brandi. I've heard so much about you." All of it bad, by the way. Wouldn't you know it, two of God's female gifts to wrestling run into each other in Philadelphia and I get caught in the middle. They spent the rest of the night gabbing; I tried to spend the rest of the night watching wrestling. Ended up getting a headache and looking for the nearest hotel bar. On the whole, I agree with W.C. Fields.

**G**ot invited to Chicago for what the promoters of Windy City Wrestling promised would be a heartwarming night. As if I needed my heart

warmed. "Come check us out, Mr. Brock," one promoter said. "It'll be a great night of wrestling, plus Mike Anthony will be given the Windy City Wrestling Wrestler of the Year plaque for 1994." And I thought TV had too many awards shows. What the promoter didn't tell me was that a handicapped man would be giving the award to Anthony, and what he couldn't know was that Anthony would throw down the plaque upon receiving it and attack the presenter. Unbelievable. Even felt some guilt when one of the wrestlers suggested that the only reason Anthony pulled the rotten stunt was because he knew I was in the building and would probably write about it if he did anything extraordinary. Then that promoter assured me Anthony knew nothing about my presence. Good. And I don't feel guilty about it because this is probably the last time I'll write anything good or bad about Mike Anthony. Count on *that*. □

# THE ROAD WARRIORS: HAVE THEY LOST THEIR KILLER INSTINCT?

**J**UST IMAGINE: FOR a moment if you control the camera of the two most awesome teams in professional wrestling. A team that has dominated the tag team ratings for as long as they have been professionals. A team that continues to remain number one in the ratings long after they have lost their first world tag team title.

Imagine that you could turn this amazing team loose on any current situation in the sport today. What might you do with them? The possibilities are numerous.

Perhaps you would send them after Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton, The Midnight Express. After all, Condrey and Eaton hold the NWA World tag team title, and are widely regarded as the team to beat in the sport today. Wouldn't you want to be the team to beat them? Or you might look toward WWF World tag champs The British Bulldogs, or maybe even AWA World

## INSIDE WRESTLING CLASSIC!

The rumors of The Road Warriors returning to WCW continue to circulate. Hawk address them in this issue's "Hotseat." But perhaps there are other reasons for the Warriors' staying on the sidelines ... reasons examined nine years ago (in the October 1986 edition of *Inside Wrestling*) and reviewed in this issue's "Inside Wrestling Classic!"

***Is it possible? Can the toughest, most vicious, most formidable tag team in the sport become just another pair of wrestlers? More to the point, can such a thing happen to Hawk and Animal—The Road Warriors? Shockingly, the evidence suggests it may already have***





Animal succumbs to a series of kicks by Dennis Condrey. The Warriors could be making a major mistake by not pursuing The Midnight Express' NWA tag team title.

tag champs Buddy Rose and Doug Somers. After all, a world tag team title means prestige and monetary gain.

Perhaps prestige and profit aren't your uppermost concerns. Perhaps you're looking to get involved in the middle of the wildest feuds in the sport today, or just to prove yourselves physically against the most formidable teams in the sport, teams like The Fabulous Ones, The Fantastics, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake, and the above-mentioned world championship teams.

What's that you say? You don't want a world tag team title? You don't want to go after the top teams in the sport? Why not? You mean you'd rather go to Japan for a few weeks and not have to deal with *any* of these teams? You'd rather split up and wrestle in singles matches during some of the biggest cards of the entire year? You'd prefer not to defend your six-man championship in title matches during these cards? Are you kidding?

If the previous paragraph seems overly accusatory—well, it is. Because The Road Warriors are professional wrestling's most dominant tag team force, and as we approach The Great American Bash—a summer series of



Hawk finds himself in enemy territory and on the receiving end of a double-team (soon to be triple-team) effort by Ivan Koloff, Baron Von Raschke, and then Nikita Koloff. If The Road Warriors and Dusty Rhodes allow themselves to get rusty as a team, they could very well lose their six-man title.

cards that, for the NWA, is like WrestleMania multiplied 15 times in significance—Hawk and Animal seem to be placing themselves in the background for the Bash cards.

Consider: As of press time, we are aware of the cards for five of the Bash cards. On July 1 in Philadelphia, the Warriors split up as Hawk wrestles NWA World champion Ric Flair; on July 9 in Cincinnati, Animal wrestles Flair; on July 10 in Charleston, West Virginia, a six-man title match between champions Hawk, Animal, and Dusty Rhodes and the team of Ivan and Nikita Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev—the *only* title match of the five

cards we have; in the other matches, the Warriors team with Magnum T.A. (July 3 in Washington, D.C.) and Paul Ellering (July 11 in Roanoke, Virginia) for six-man *non-title* matches.

Now we do not mean to deny the possibility that the Animal-Flair and Hawk-Flair matches will be exciting bouts. But the matches that the Warriors are getting involved in for the Bash series raise certain important questions.

First of all, why would Paul Ellering split his team up to face Flair in singles matches? It is highly unlikely that either Hawk or Animal will be able to unseat Flair after just one match, and



Perhaps preoccupied by interests outside of their specialty, The Road Warriors do not appear to be as sharp as they once did. Ivan Koloff deftly ducks under Hawk's attempted flying clothesline (above). Ivan sinks his knuckles into Hawk's throat (below).



Bobby Eaton flings Animal into the ropes. The Road Warriors have never held the NWA World tag team title.

the Warriors have virtually ignored singles wrestling strategies throughout their career.

Secondly, the Warriors are co-holders of the NWA six-man title (along with Dusty). So why are they involved in only one title match out of five cards?

And maybe the biggest question of all: Why didn't Paul Ellering, one of the most brilliant strategists in the sport, press for a strong series of tag team matches against NWA World tag team champs The Midnight Express? As we go to press, not one of the Bash cards will see that match take place.

This becomes all the more disturbing in light of the fact that the Warriors had been wrestling the Express regularly just a month or so prior to the announcement of the Bash dates. Hawk and Animal had failed to capture the NWA tag team belts in those matches, and now . . .

. . . and now they've given up?

Impossible. Or so one would think, though Hawk and Animal are certainly



Animal executes a devastating powerslam against Eaton.

capable of defeating Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton. Indeed, without the interference of Jim Cornette in several matches during March and April, Hawk and Animal might be champions today. They had the Midnights reeling on the ropes like a boxer in the late rounds who'd absorbed too much punishment.

And they turned and let them go. Scot free. No more title matches. They could have closed in for the kill during the Bash series, but instead they simply left the possibility of capturing the NWA World tag belts for someone else to enjoy.

The Road Warriors did not display their characteristic killer instinct at a time when that instinct could have brought them the most coveted tag team title in the world. And that can only be viewed as a step backward for the organization known as The Legion of Doom.

The Bashes last through early August, and there will no doubt be a post-Bash settling-down period following whatever events take place during these monumental cards. So it may not be until at least late fall that we learn whether Hawk and Animal can regain the killer instinct they've failed to display during this time. And whether their reputation can recoup the losses that they've already suffered due to the matches they've taken at the Bashes—and, mostly, due to the matches they haven't taken.

For their sake, let's hope that by then it won't be too late. ☐

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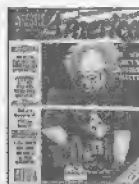
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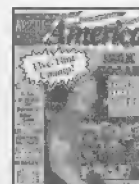
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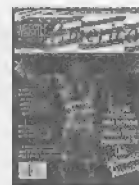
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## BACK ISSUES



# WCW

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

**In the September 1995 issue of  
*The Wrestler*, we presented  
our midyear report for the WWF.  
Now we turn our attention to WCW!**

**T**HE FIRST SIX months of 1995 were an unpredictable time for WCW. That's both the good news and the bad news, because who could have predicted that the following would happen: Ric Flair would get reinstated just six months after he lost a "loser-must-retain" match to Hulk Hogan; Hogan would immediately recover from a Big Van Vader power bomb; a card of specialty matches would turn out to be a total bore and a major embarrassment for the federation; Randy Savage's 70-year-old father would get attacked by Vader, Flair, and Arn Anderson; Gordon Solie would receive his just due; Bobby Heenan would help a fan favorite; and a former football star would help the WWF steal WCW's thunder.

Things are getting awfully interesting in WCW. Its war with the WWF is hotter than ever, and the wars inside the federation have turned especially violent. Who are the good guys? Who are the bad guys? Sometimes it's impossible to tell. All we know is that the first half of the year in WCW has given us plenty to write about.

Which is exactly what we've done on the following pages. It's an offbeat, irreverent look at WCW's first six months of 1995. It's a collection of news and reviews, darts and laurels, critiques—in all, a wide-ranging review of a wide range of extraordinary happenings.

It was a fascinating first half, and the final six months of the year will hold many answers to the questions raised—and will, in turn, raise many new questions. Get ready to move ahead with the rest of 1995. But before you do, here's a look at January through June.

ACTION	B-
TALENT ROSTER	A-
COMPETITIVENESS	B
BUSINESS	C
PUBLIC IMAGE	C+
PAY-PER-VIEWS	C+
ARENA SHOWS	D
TV PRODUCTION	B
ANNOUNCERS	A
FAN RELATIONS	B

# midyear REPORT

## THE GRADES ARE IN ...

**They get an "A":** Hulk Hogan held off challenges to the WCW World title and successfully teamed with Randy Savage. We wouldn't mind if he defended that title of his a little (or a lot) more often, though. Make it an A-, "Hulkster" ... **The Nasty Boys** overcame both



Hogan vs. Vader

Harlem Heat and The Blue Bloods (Lord Steven Regal and Bobby "Earl Robert" Eaton) to win and hold on to the World tag team title ... **Arn Anderson** defended the TV title and made young Alex Wright look like a rookie at times.

**They get a "B":** **Sting** lost to Antonio Inoki (in Japan) and Big Bubba Rogers, then scored several important victories as the half-year wound down and he

returned to a prominent spot in the top 10 ... **The Great Muta** defended his IWGP heavyweight title in WCW and defeated Paul Orndorff using hardly any high-flying maneuvers ... **"Macho Man" Randy Savage** probably would have been better off making a run at the World title than just sticking by Hulk Hogan's side. Still, he was sharp and serious alongside the "Hulkster" in matches against combinations of Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and Big Van Vader ... **Harlem Heat** probably would have fared a lot better if Sherri Martel wasn't in the team's corner ... Although **Alex Wright** fell short of his dreams in TV title matches against Arn Anderson, his move up the ladder was quick and stunning and included victories



Bubba vs. Sting

# WCW midyear REPORT

over several veterans ... **Kevin Sullivan** handled Brutus Beefcake, which means he beat a man who recently fought for the World title even though he didn't deserve to.

**They get a "C":** Paul Orndorff was humbled (if that's possible) by The Great Muta, Sting, and others ... **Meng** impressed us with quick, efficient victories over some of WCW's lower-level mainstays, but needs to set his sights on stiffer competition ... **Big Van Vader's** power bomb was neutralized by Hulk Hogan; then Vader was neutralized and stripped of the U.S. title ... **Big Bubba Rogers** beat Sting, but lost to him, too, and gained little ground after his conversion from The Guardian Angel ... **Ric Flair** returned to the ring, wreaked havoc, lost to 52-year-old Antonio Inoki in Korea, and lost in tag team matches against Hogan and company ... **Johnny B. Badd** is getting lost in the shuffle ... Ditto for **Brian Pillman** ... **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** and **The Patriot** are a nice tag team that's stuck in quicksand.

**They get a "D":** Brutus Beefcake fell flat on his face after losing to Hulk Hogan, then had a falling-out with Kevin Sullivan ... Why is "**Diamond**" **Dallas Page** still wrestling? ... **Dave Sullivan** looks slow and sometimes downright pathetic in the ring ... **Steve Austin's** once-blossoming career is now going nowhere. He should have been able to beat Savage in the second round of the U.S. title tournament ... **Hacksaw Duggan** looked ridiculous in martial arts at Uncensored; he belongs in the independents.

**They get an "F":** What does **Dick Slater** add to Col. Rob Parker's Stud Stable? ... **Dustin Rhodes** must have been watching Dusty's Hall of Fame induction at Slamboree '95 and thinking, *It'll never happen to me.* It won't; Dustin's out of WCW now ...



Avalanche

**Bunkhouse Buck** should've hitched a ride on that truck at WCW Uncensored and let it take him somewhere he's wanted ... **Avalanche** is still a big, fat nobody.

**They get an "incomplete":** The **Blue Bloods** are a team we're looking forward to watching more often. The combination of **Lord Steven Regal** and **Bobby Eaton** should be outstanding ... **Hawk** looked shaky in battling to a double-countout with Meng at Slamboree '95, but it was only one match ... We don't know whether **The Renegade** is a wrestler or one of Hogan's props.



## DEFINING MOMENT OF THE HALF-YEAR

Big Van Vader delivered a thunderous message to Hulk Hogan at Clash of the Champions XXX when he attacked the "Hulkster" after a tag team match and executed a bone-crunching power bomb. But it wasn't so bone-crunching after all. As Vader turned his back and taunted the crowd, Hogan pulled himself off the mat and confronted Vader. It was one of those rare moments in sports: The Hogan-Vader feud was over before even one match because Hogan had already proven he could overcome Vader's most potent weapon. "He looked like he just saw a ghost," a WCW rulebreaker said of Vader. "He looked terrified." "I saw Vader's eyes, and I saw fear," Hogan said. "I took his best, and it wasn't good enough."



Flair couldn't remain on the sidelines

## WELCOME BACK, RIC: SCENE ONE

The highlight of Clash of the Champions XXX in Las Vegas for us was watching former WCW World champion Ric Flair sitting at ringside. Flair's presence sparked rumors that he would attempt a comeback, even though he had lost a "loser-must-retire" match to Hulk Hogan at Halloween Havoc '94.



Vader power-bombs Hogan

## YOU'RE BIG BUBBA ROGERS? YES, I AM!

When The Guardian Angel made a somewhat surprising switch from fan favorite to rulebreaker by attacking Sting and referee Nick Patrick at Clash XXX, WCW announcer "Mean" Gene Okerlund angrily asked Angel as he was making his way back to his dressing room, "What is this, Big Bubba Rogers all over again?" And, in fact, it was, as The Guardian Angel told everybody that he wanted to be known as Big Bubba Rogers, the name he used when he broke into the sport as Jim Cornette's personal bodyguard in 1986.

## SOMEHOW, "THE TWO FACES OF FEAR" JUST DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME RING TO IT AS "THE THREE FACES OF FEAR"

Trouble was obviously brewing when Kevin Sullivan and Brutus Beefcake lost a tag team match to Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage, and Sullivan and Avalanche left the ring without Beefcake. Sullivan later attacked and piledrived "The Butcher." Then reports surfaced that Beefcake was having second thoughts about turning against Hogan. Beefcake

# WCW midyear REPORT



Sullivan vs. Beefcake

eventually begged Hogan for forgiveness and lost to Sullivan at Slamboree. Hogan, by the way, wasn't forgiving. "I told him it wasn't going to happen," Hogan said. "I'd like to forget all that's gone down between us these last few months, but I can't." The rejection further angered Beefcake, who changed his, er, name to The Man With No Name and vowed to renew his feud with the "Hulkster."

## UNINTERESTING, UNCALLED-FOR, UNCENSORED

WCW's first Uncensored pay-per-view turned out to be a lame attempt at imitating ECW-style hardcore violence. The card of unorthodox matches turned out to be a two-hour bore that *PWI Weekly* labeled "the most disappointing pay-per-view event in years." A match between Dustin Rhodes and Blacktop Bully, fought in the back of an 18-wheeler driving the back



Hogan and (The Ultimate) Renegade

roads of Tupelo, Mississippi, contained almost no action. It was taped several days before the pay-per-view, and an edited version was shown to viewers because WCW officials were alarmed by how much blood was shed. Then fans thought Hulk Hogan would bring out The Ultimate Warrior as his "ultimate surprise." The surprise turned out to be The Renegade, a rookie fresh out of Killer Kowalski's training school done up to look and act like Warrior. Pay-per-viewers were even worse off than the fans in attendance at Tupelo, Mississippi. At least they got to see the pin when The Nasty Boys defeated Harlem Heat in a Texas Tornado match. No blood was spilled in that match, but the wrestlers were covered in *mustard* afterward. Suffice to say, Uncensored was unwatchable.

## BUT HERE'S THE TOPPER: HULK HOGAN BEAT RIC FLAIR ... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS WRESTLING BIG VAN VADER!

A non-title strap match between Hogan and Vader at WCW Uncensored came to an absurd ending when Hogan dragged Flair, who kept interfering, to all four corners of the ring. Apparently, WCW officials saw nothing wrong with this topsy-turvy finish and let the result stand.

**"AFTER WATCHING THE ACCUSED CRIPPLE FIVE PEOPLE, ROB THREE BANKS, AND TERRORIZE JUST ABOUT EVERYONE WHO GOT IN HIS WAY, WE'VE DECIDED TO GIVE HIM A PARKING TICKET!"**

WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel decided he had seen enough and stripped Big Van Vader of the

U.S. title. "This was the best way to send him a message that this type of behavior won't be tolerated." Bockwinkel became fed up after Vader and Flair brutally attacked Dave Sullivan at a TV taping. But Vader, who has injured more people than any other wrestler in WCW, if not the world, was not barred from World title shots. A tournament was held to determine the new U.S. champion.

### **IF HOGAN'S THE MONSTER, DOES THAT MAKE SAVAGE THE MANIAC?**

Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage, previously known as The Megapowers when they teamed in the WWF, reunited in WCW as The Monster Maniacs.

### **GIVE ME LIFE, GIVE ME LIFE! PART I**

WCW fans everywhere had high hopes when they heard Animal showed up in Hawk's corner for a



Hawk vs. Meng

### **WELCOME BACK, RIC: SCENE TWO**

Flair and Vader met for more than three hours at a hotel in Orlando, Florida, on January 30 before Flair agreed to stand in Vader's corner for his SuperBrawl V match against Hulk Hogan. "That's right, Hogan, I never go away," Flair said. "I'll haunt you until the day I die! I don't like Vader. Hogan. but I hate you more!"

match against Scott Norton in Tokyo, Japan. Was a Road Warriors reunion in the works? Well, Hawk eventually showed up in WCW at Slamboree '95 (and battled to a double-countout with Meng), but Animal has yet to be heard from.

### **A LIST OF THE BEST COMEBACKS SO FAR IN 1995**

1. Randy Savage
2. Ric Flair

### **AS FAMILY FEUDS GO, IT WASN'T HART VS. HART OR ROTTEN VS. ROTTEN ... OR EVEN GILBERT VS. GILBERT**

Dave Sullivan vs. Kevin Sullivan in a series of brother vs. brother matches didn't come close to matching the intensity of the Owen Hart-Bret Hart WWF feud or Ian Rotten-Axl Rotten ECW wars. Kevin dominated, and Dave looked like a sick puppy. The most interesting incident in the feud came when Ric Flair and Big Van Vader beat up Dave at a TV taping, and rulebreaker-supporting broadcaster Bobby Heenan intervened after Vader power-bombed and moonsaulted onto Sullivan. "I didn't want to see the buffoon get killed," Heenan said. "Someone had to stop Ric from doing something stupid."



Kevin Sullivan vs. Dave Sullivan



# WCW midyear REPORT

**MAYBE IT'S THE NAME. MAYBE TWO WS AND AN F LOOK NICER THAN TWO WS AND A C. OR MAYBE YOU CAN'T TEACH OLD DOGS NEW TRICKS. OR MAYBE EVERYTHING THEY TOUCH TURNS TO DUST**

Despite having a talent roster that includes Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, Sting, Big Van Vader, Steve Austin, Randy Savage, Johnny B. Badd, and others, WCW was still considered by most fans to be playing second fiddle to the WWF. Two events didn't help matters for WCW. First, WCW failed miserably with its Uncensored pay-per-view. Then the WWF captured headlines when Lawrence Taylor defeated Bam Bam Bigelow at WrestleMania XI. The lesson was that the WWF is still far better than WCW at marketing its product.

## THEY'D LOOK GREAT IN WCW

Sabu  
Bret Hart  
Dan Severn  
Al Snow  
The Road Warriors  
Rick and Scott Steiner  
Jeff Jarrett  
Shawn Michaels

## THEY'D LOOK GREAT IN THE WWF

Hulk Hogan  
Randy Savage  
Sting  
Big Van Vader  
Big Bubba Rogers  
Meng  
Steve Austin  
Hacksaw Duggan

## ANYONE INTERESTED IN CRUISING?

Calling all light heavyweights! Brian Pillman, Alex Wright, and numerous stars from Japan and Mexico listened carefully to rumors that WCW was going to be instituting a cruiserweight division. The rumors are still flying, but according to our sources, Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel and other WCW officials still haven't figured out whether they want to proceed with the plan. We're waiting, guys!

## YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S ONE WAY TO STOP HER FROM INTERFERING ...

The Nasty Boys not only had to contend with Harlem Heat for the entire first half of 1995, they also had to contend with their manager, Sister Sherri Martel, a woman who is fond of diving off the top rope onto the Nastys, whacking them with her high-



Sherri gets a "Nasty" whiff!

heeled shoe, or doing anything else to make their lives miserable. She had to pay for her interference, though. On several occasions, one of them held her while the other shoved his sweaty armpit in her face. Nasty, indeed!

## DAS SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

The female fans loved it, but Alex Wright, "Das Wunderkind" from Berlin, Germany, embarrassed wrestling purists with his ridiculous disco dancing routine before matches and after victories. Not coin-



"Das Wunderkind" Alex Wright

cidentally, Wright started getting a lot more significant matches and scored a lot more significant wins after he cut out the *Dance Fever* act. Perhaps his most important victory was over veteran Bobby Eaton at Clash XXX.

## GIVE ME LIFE, GIVE ME LIFE! PART II

WCW fans were disappointed again when nothing came of contract talks between federation officials and former World tag team champions Rick and Scott Steiner. "The competition in Japan has been great," Scott said. "We got a break from the pressure. Maybe it's time to come back." In March, it looked like a done deal; Rick and Scott, it seemed,

## WELCOME BACK, RIC: SCENE THREE

Flair prevented the Hogan-Vader bout at SuperBrawl from reaching a definitive conclusion when he interfered on Vader's behalf. "I'm back!" Flair shouted. "You haven't seen the last of me, Hogan!" But Flair still hadn't been reinstated by the WCW board of directors. That would come later.

would be back in Atlanta by summer. But by June, the Steiners still hadn't been spotted anywhere near WCW territory. And WCW fans were pleading: "We're not asking for both the Steiners *and* the Warriors. Just give us one of the two!"

## THEY SAY MONEY TALKS. SO DO LAWYERS

Big Van Vader tried everything to get a World title match against Hulk Hogan. He won the U.S. title. Then he threatened to sue WCW. Finally, he confronted Hogan after Starrcade '94. But Vader didn't get action until he put together a team of high-priced lawyers, who reportedly were proceeding with a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against WCW. Vader vs. Hogan was finally signed for SuperBrawl V.

## THIS YEAR'S INDUCTEES: WAHOO McDANIEL, TERRY FUNK, ANGELO POFFO, ANTONIO INOKI, BIG JOHN STUDD, DUSTY RHODES, AND ... SURPRISE! ... GORDON SOLIE!

Legendary broadcaster Gordon Solie thought six men were being inducted into the Hall of Fame at Slamboree '95. But Solie received the surprise of his life when Dusty Rhodes announced the name of the seventh inductee: Gordon Solie. It was a touching moment. And by the way, doesn't Studd, who became very famous for his stint in the WWF and his feud with Andre the Giant, belong in the WWF Hall of Fame?



Gordon Solie

# WCW midyear REPORT

## **MAYBE THEY COULD DOUBLE-DATE WITH GEORGE "THE ANIMAL" STEELE AND MISS ELIZABETH!**

There are strange couples and then there are *strange couples*. Dave Sullivan developed a crush on "Diamond" Dallas Page's valet, The Diamond Doll, this spring. If you think that's strange ... well, what you might find even stranger is that the gorgeous Doll actually seems interested in Sullivan! He has sent her love letters and small gifts as tokens of his affection. Page doesn't think this is funny and has torn to shreds everything Sullivan has sent, telling him to back off—or else! Wrestling fans can only hope they don't have to watch those two battle in the ring.

## **MACHO MADNESS!**

Randy Savage, relegated mainly to broadcasting duties in the WWF, had his wrestling career revived in WCW. After re-befriending Hulk Hogan, Savage went on a rampage, winning almost all of his matches and quickly moving up the WCW ladder. But Macho Madness turned to Macho Mad when Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and Big Van Vader attacked Savage's father, Angelo Poffo, after the main event of Slamboree '95. Flair locked a figure-four leglock on Poffo, who later grabbed his left leg in pain as a tearful Savage looked on. Still no signs that Savage is even thinking about turning against the "Hulkster."

## **YOU THINK YOU'RE THE BEST, NOW GO TAKE A REST**

Newcomer Jean-Paul LeVeque boldly pronounced himself the best wrestler in WCW, but a series of humbling losses—including one to Alex Wright, another newcomer—put LeVeque in his place ...



Jean-Paul LeVeque (a.k.a. Hunter Hearst Helmsley)

which is in the WWF right now, where he uses the name Hunter Hearst Helmsley.

## **UH, MARCUS, REMEMBER THAT THING YOU SAID ABOUT TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE?**

Marcus Alexander Bagwell was embarrassed—and had some explaining to do to tag team partner The Patriot—when word got out that he asked 2 Cold Scorpio to return to WCW so they could go after the WCW World tag team title together. It came as a surprise to Patriot, who privately pointed out to Bagwell that their duo recently held the World tag team championship. "No comment," Bagwell said when asked about the report. "We're dealing with it," The Patriot said sternly.





The Patriot and Marcus Alexander Bagwell

### YEAH, AND WHO IS THAT MASKED MAN, ANYWAY?

More problems surfaced in the Bagwell/Patriot camp when Bagwell made a simple request of his tag team partner: Remove your mask just so I can see who's under there. Patriot flatly refused at first, but eventually let his partner in on his real identity. "I just wanted to make sure he wasn't some old enemy of mine from years ago or somethin'!" Bagwell explained.

### WELCOME BACK, RIC: SCENE FOUR

Dressed to kill—kill Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage, that is—in a wig and women's clothing, Flair jumped Randy Savage during his bout with Avalanche at Uncensored. Later on the card, still sporting some eye makeup, Flair got involved in the Vader-Hogan strap match. Nice look, "Nature Boy."

### JUST BECAUSE WE ALWAYS DO IT, A LIST OF THE THREE BEST PAY-PER-VIEW CARDS SO FAR IN 1995

1. SuperBrawl V
2. Slamboree '95
3. WCW Uncensored

### WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

**Hulk Hogan.** The "Hulkster" successfully defended his title against Big Van Vader. In the process, he dismantled Vader's feared power bomb and gained a following among WCW fans who had previously questioned his ability. But when did you say that next title defense was, Hulk?



The Nasty Boys

### TAG TEAM OF THE HALF-YEAR

**The Nasty Boys.** Who else? Jerry Sags and Brian Knobs regained the World tag team title from Harlem Heat at Slamboree despite Sister Sherri Martel's interference and Knobs' absence for most of the match. Until something better comes along, the Nastys are the best tag team in WCW. (By the way, this marks the second consecutive time they won this award.)

### MANAGER OF THE HALF-YEAR

**Jimmy Hart.** He doesn't do much, but at least his wrestlers—Hogan, The Renegade, and Randy Savage—consistently win, which is more than we can say about Col. Rob Parker and Sherri Martel.

# WCW midyear REPORT



Antonio Inoki

## INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

**Antonio Inoki.** The 52-year-old Japanese legend, who isn't actually a regular WCW wrestler, defeated Sting and Ric Flair during the first half of 1995. That's a remarkable record that should be an inspiration to anyone in the over-40 crowd.

## MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

**Ric Flair.** He went absolutely crazy upon his return to WCW, then attacked 70-year-old Angelo Poffo at Slamboree. It's really a shame, but this wrestling legend is tarnishing his image.

## MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

**Hulk Hogan.** The "Hulkster" has truly gained a following in WCW, which might be the most amazing news of all. The turning point came when Hogan got up from Big Van Vader's power bomb in January. He still looks great.

## ROOKIE OF THE HALF-YEAR

**Alex Wright.** Who else? He broke into the top 10, received shots at the TV title, and scored several important victories. Okay, so he couldn't beat Ric Flair in the U.S. title tournament, but a rookie isn't supposed to beat a legend. Not yet, anyway. Turning point: He dropped the stupid dance.



SuperBrawl V

## MATCH OF THE HALF-YEAR

WCW World champion Hulk Hogan battled three-time former World champion Big Van Vader in a

long-awaited match at SuperBrawl V. The match was a bit anti-climactic, since weeks earlier Hogan showed he could shake off the effects of a Vader power bomb, but for 15 minutes and 10 seconds, these arch-rivals battled in a violent encounter. Unfortunately, it ended when Ric Flair interfered on Vader's behalf.

## HOW OUR SECOND-HALF PREDICTIONS FOR 1994 FARED

**1. Hogan and Flair will wrestle. The fans will root for Flair. Flair will win.** They wrestled, the fans mostly rooted for Hogan (although Flair still has a huge following), and Hogan won every time.

**2. Hogan will be out of WCW by January 1, 1995.** There's no end to his World title reign—or his

WCW tenure—in sight.

**3. Rick Rude will return and wrestle Flair for the World title.** Rick who?

**4. The Nasty Boys will regain the World tag team title.** We were a bit early on this one, but come on, close enough, right?

**5. Sherri Martel will kiss Cactus Jack on national TV.** What were we thinking about?



## WELCOME BACK, RIC: SCENE FIVE

Despite the urgings of Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, and Jimmy Hart—all of them his sworn enemies—Flair failed in his initial attempt at reinstatement. The vote was 2-2-1 with the board member from France abstaining. Christine LeBlanc, the abstainer, later changed her vote, and Flair was finally reinstated.



Harlem Heat with Sherri Martel

## WE NEVER QUIT: HERE ARE OUR SECOND-HALF PREDICTIONS FOR 1995

**1. The Road Warriors will return to WCW and defeat The Nasty Boys for the World tag team title.**

**2. Hulk Hogan will finish the year as World champion.**

**3. Alex Wright will come within a half-second of pinning someone for the U.S. title ... but he won't win it.**

**4. Stevie Ray and Booker T will fire Sherri Martel and become fan favorites.**

**5. Big Van Vader will become a fan favorite.**



# WCW midyear REPORT



Hacksaw Duggan

## AND WE JUST HOPE THAT ...

1. Randy Savage doesn't reunite with Sherri Martel.
2. There's no Uncensored '96.
3. The Patriot doesn't turn against Marcus Alexander Bagwell.
4. Alex Wright doesn't learn the twist.
5. Angelo Poffo doesn't wind up seriously injured.

## YOU PROBABLY WON'T HEAR A LOT FROM ...

Tex Slazenger  
Hacksaw Duggan  
Tim Horner  
Scott Armstrong (or *any* Armstrong)  
Frank Andersson

## BUT KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR ...

Kamala  
Sgt. Craig Pittman  
The Renegade  
The Great Muta

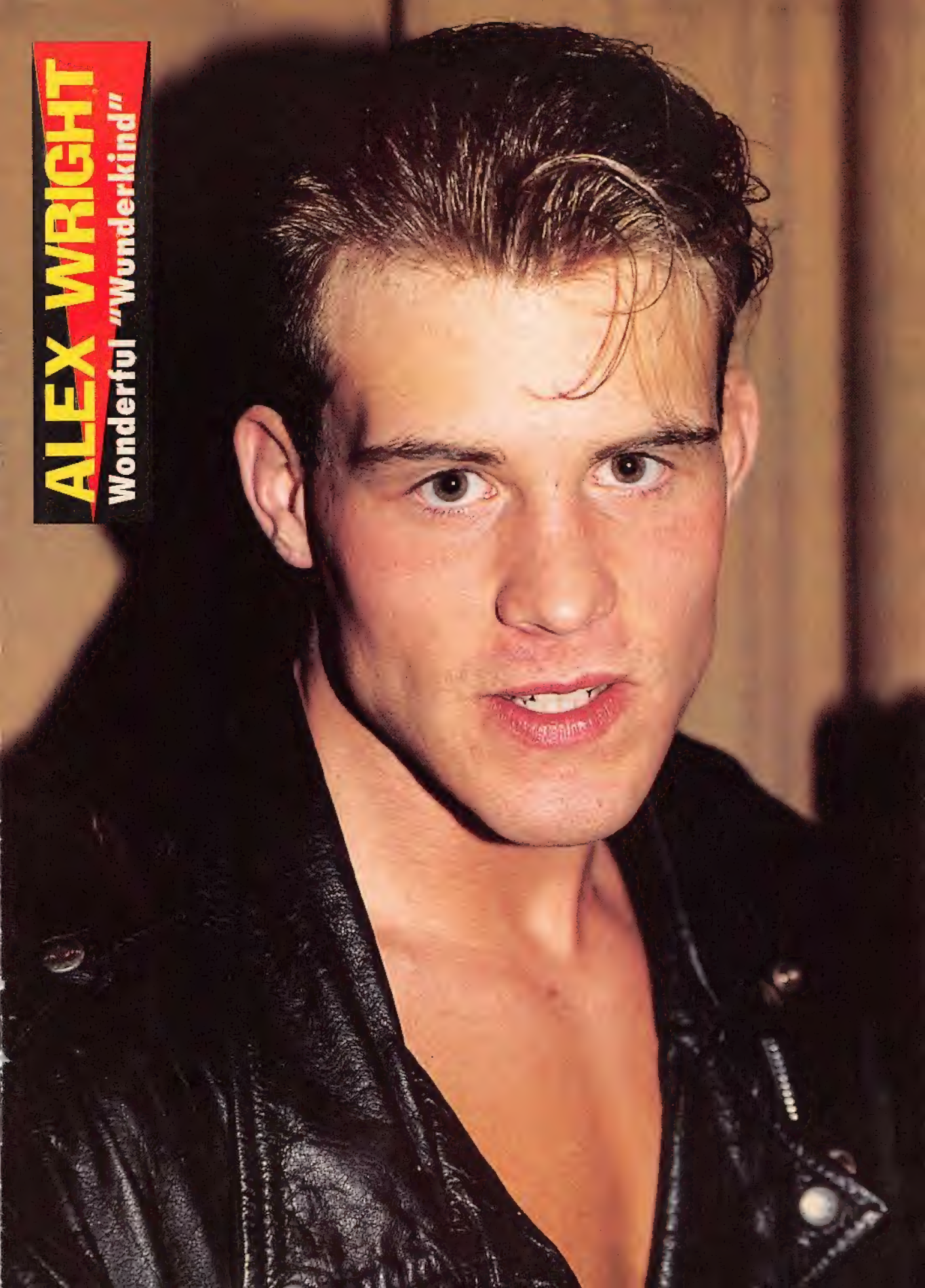


## WELCOME BACK, RIC: SCENE SIX

Flair and Hogan met for the first time since Halloween Havoc at Slamboree '95, when Hogan and Savage battled Flair and Vader. Hogan pinned Flair, but the "Nature Boy" stole the show when he savagely attacked Angelo Poffo, Savage's father.

**ALEX WRIGHT**

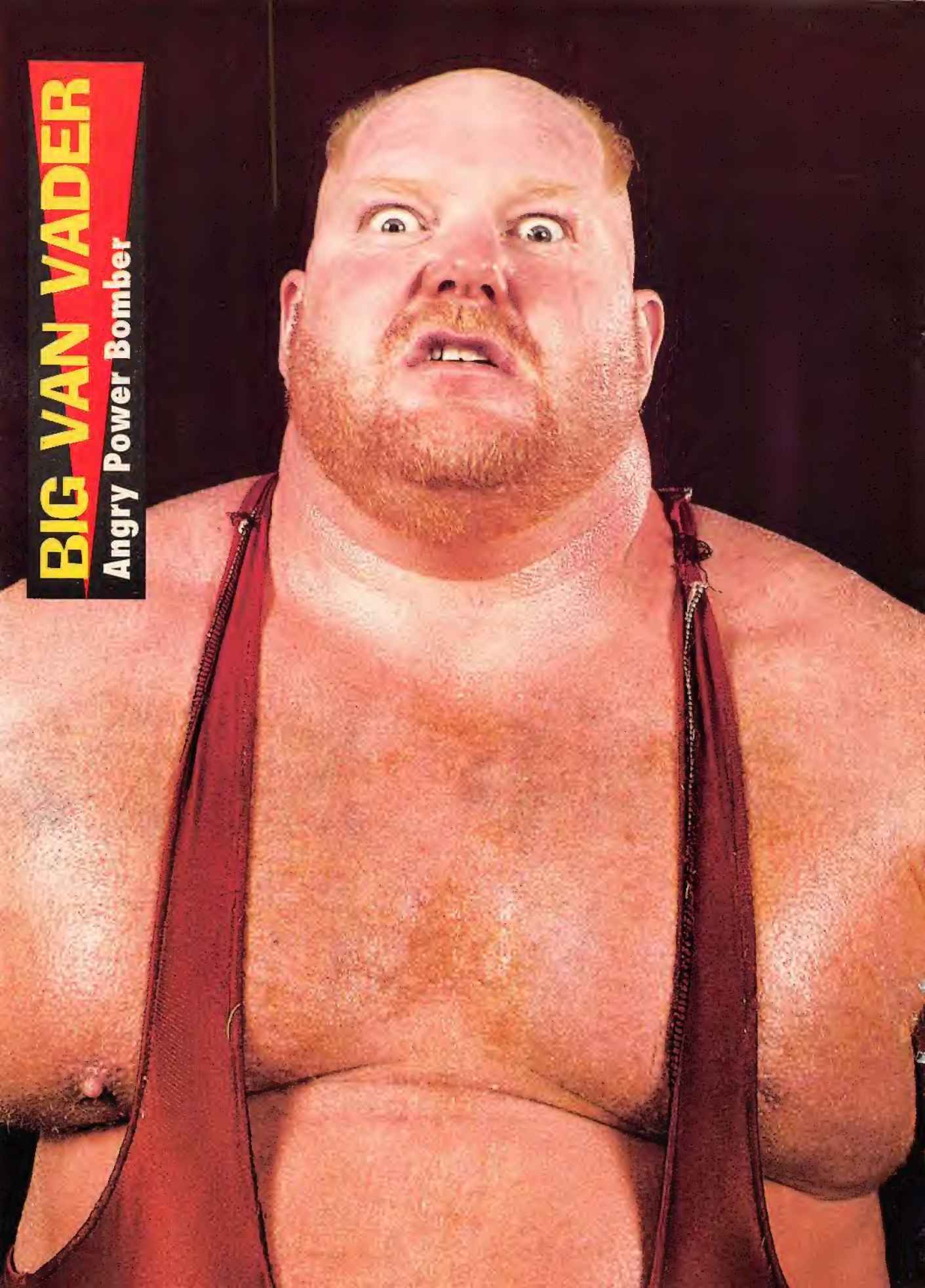
Wonderful "Wonderkind"





# BIG VAN VADER

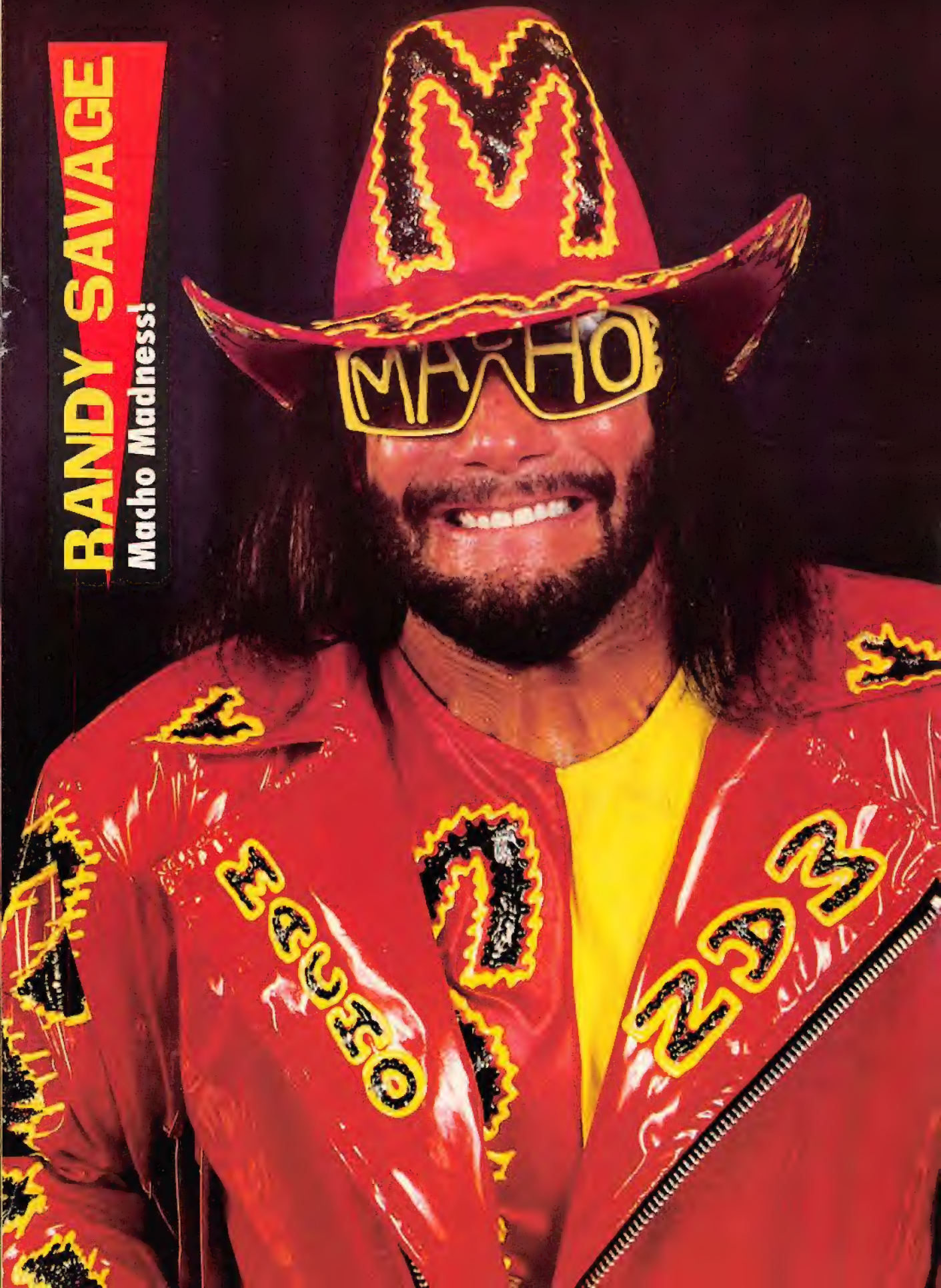
Angry Power Bomber



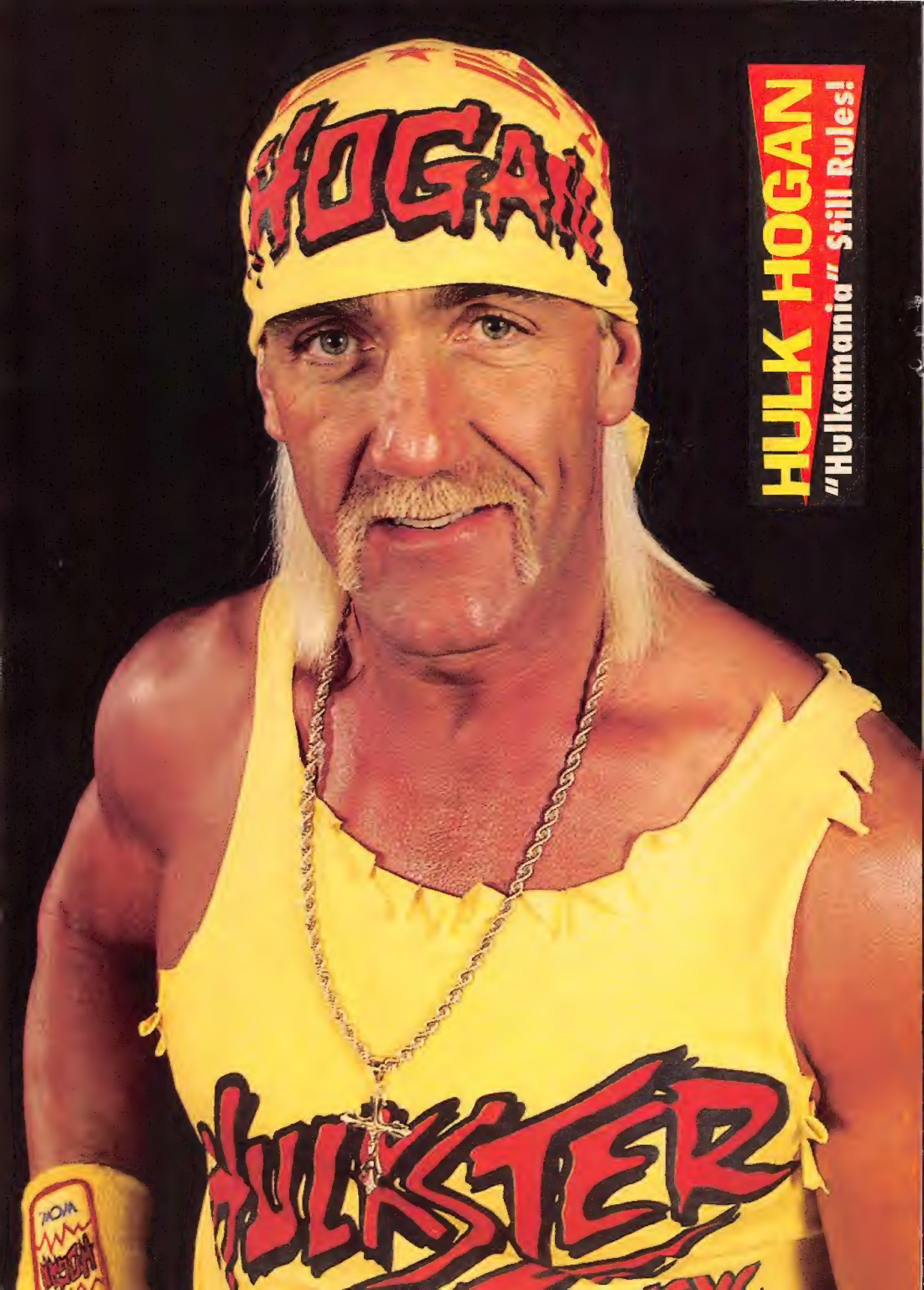


# BANDY SAVAGE

Macho Madness!







**HULK HOGAN**  
"Hulkamania" Still Rules!



# Randy Savage's Tear-Stained Vow:

## "I'LL MAKE THEM PAY FOR BRUTALIZING MY FATHER!"



After what happened at Slamboree, Randy Savage will stop at nothing to get Arn Anderson, Ric Flair, and Big Van Vader—and the more dangerous the route to revenge, the better!

**By Dave Rosenbaum**

**C**ALL THEM INSENSITIVE or call them insightful. Whatever you do, never call Ric Flair and Arn Anderson tactful. Because when Flair and Anderson were told that Randy Savage was furious about their attack on his father, the legendary Angelo Poffo, they were hardly moved.

Anderson first: "What's *he* so uptight about? If he cared so much about his father, then why'd





Anderson and Flair were pummeling Savage until Poffo took it upon himself to intervene (top). Seizing an opportunity, Flair and Anderson double-teamed the 70-year-old legend (center) until Savage and others rescued him (bottom).



want *more* of Savage, not less. Come and get it, 'Macho Man!'"

Savage hardly needs any coaxing. The "Macho Man" has never been angrier at anybody for anything, whether it was George "The Animal" Steele for making passes at Elizabeth or Hulk Hogan for supposedly fooling around with Liz behind his back. This time, the enemy dealt with a blood relative, and where the Poffo/Savage family is concerned, you simply don't do that.

"They want more of me? Well, they damn well got it!" Savage spat. "Nobody does what they did to the 'Macho Man's' kin and gets away with it. There's no excuse for what they did. Slamboree was one of the greatest nights of his life, but they had to go ahead and ruin it."

Savage's voice cracked with emotion, but he kept his head high as tears rolled off his cheeks and stained the cement floor. He clenched his fists and leaned forward, trying to regain his composure and hold his emotions in check. Then he finally spoke again.

"They've gone too far this time," Savage said. "Way too far. Anderson, Vader, Flair, *all* of them. I'll make them pay for brutalizing my father."

Although the incident at Slamboree '95 stands out as one of the most heinous acts seen in WCW in recent times, Poffo was certainly guilty of overexuberance when he made the terrible decision to leave his ringside seat and help out his fallen son. Savage and Hogan had just defeated Flair and Vader in the main event of Slamboree when the losers decid-

he change his name to Savage?"

Now Flair: "Since when is Savage a family man? He never hangs around or talks about his own brother, and I believe I can remember a time when he struck his wife on national television."

After they had a good laugh,

Flair and Anderson regained their composure and dealt with reality.

"Savage must think we're stupid," Anderson said. "No fool would try to *avoid* Randy Savage by attacking Angelo Poffo. Who does he think we are? We went after Poffo for a damn good reason. We



Vader—Flair and Anderson's cohort—is one man Savage might unleash his rage on (above left). If he does, Hogan says, the "Hulkster" will be there to lend a hand against him (above right) ... or Anderson or Flair, for that matter.

ed to take out their frustrations on the fan favorites.

Vader, Flair, and Anderson (who was in the rulebreakers' corner) launched a three-way assault on Savage, leaving the "Macho Man" fallen and hurt. Poffo, who was sitting in the front row at the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg, Florida, climbed over the metal ring barrier, onto the apron, and into the ring. The Enforcers' initial shock at being confronted by a 70-year-old man quickly turned to savage glee when they realized the opportunity presented them. They proceeded to pummel Mr. Poffo.

But that wasn't the worst part. Flair, who usually shows a lot of respect toward wrestling legends, displayed his reverence by clamping a figure-four leglock on the man who had been inducted into the WCW Hall Of Fame that same night. Savage finally recovered and came to the rescue of his father, but the damage to Poffo's left leg

*(Continued on page 82)*

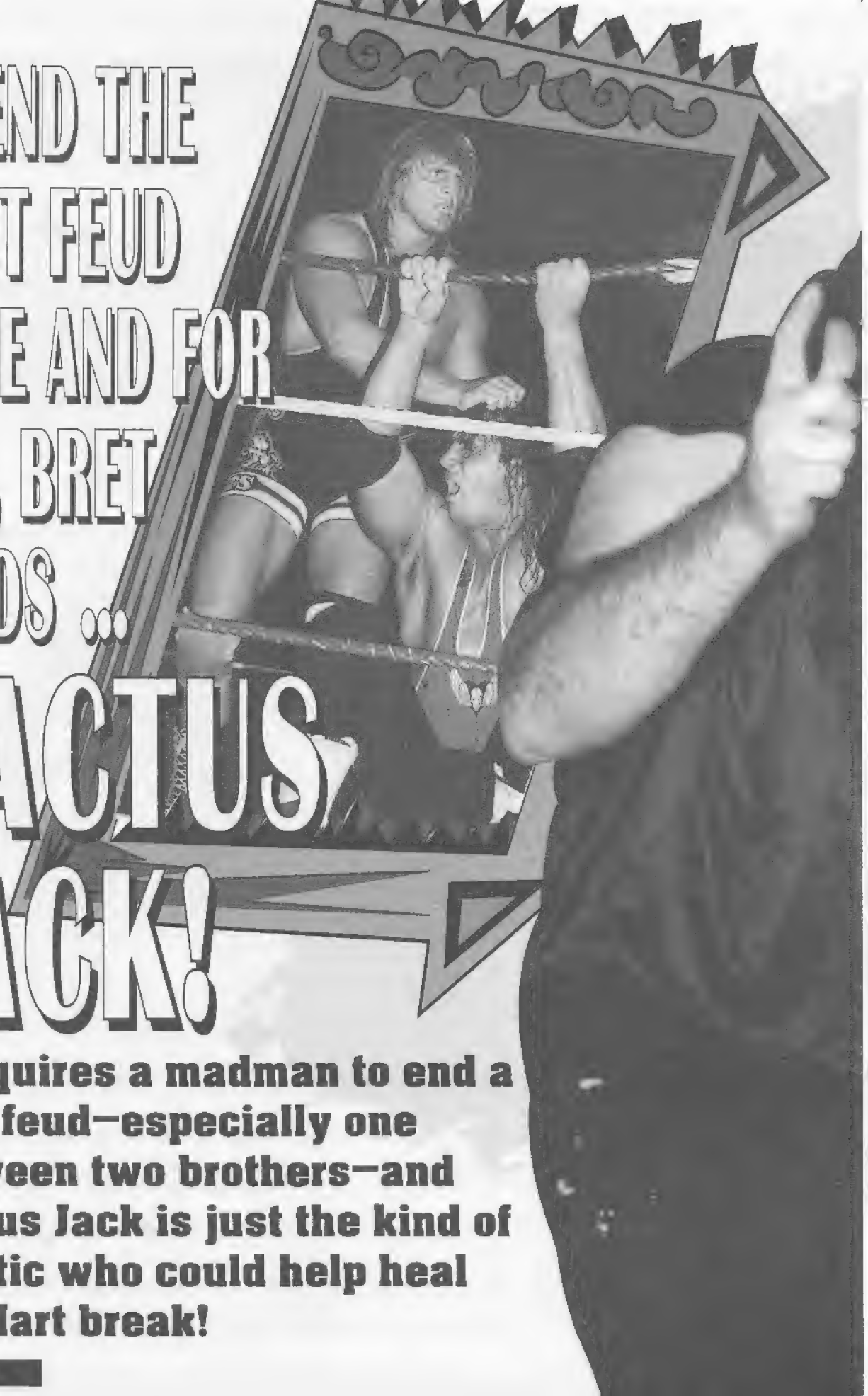
At the beginning of his career, Savage teamed with his father. He won't let him in the ring against the men who attacked him. He does, however, want his father to see him gain revenge.



TO END THE  
HART FEUD  
ONCE AND FOR  
ALL, BRET  
NEEDS ...

# CACTUS JACK!

**It requires a madman to end a mad feud—especially one between two brothers—and Cactus Jack is just the kind of lunatic who could help heal the Hart break!**







**By Eddie Ellner**

**T**HEY'VE BATTLED IN every place imaginable, from their parents' backyard and basement to high school gymnasiums in western Canada to Madison Square Garden and arenas throughout Europe and the Philippines. Yet the feud between Owen and Bret Hart rages on unabated.

But this feud that once captured the imaginations of wrestling

fans is in danger of becoming ... well, boring.

Some say it already has.

"Two great wrestlers are ruining their careers," said WWF expert Thomas Pilliard. "Especially Bret. He can't seem to shake Owen off. It's consuming him in a way that's unhealthy. He doesn't talk about it, but you just know the feud is still constantly on his mind. It's ruining him."

The Hart saga reminds some fans of the great Kevin Von Erich-

Chris Adams wars in Texas of the early-1980s that lasted for years and left both competitors wasted and spent. Many claim neither man was ever the same afterward.

Bret Hart has insisted that he is sick of wrestling Owen and listening to him whine about how he is the best wrestler in the Hart family. It doesn't matter, because the battles continue to erupt, and "The Hitman" seems incapable of stopping that from happening. Now that Owen is the co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Yokozuna, he taunts Bret by telling him he is the only Hart with a belt.

If Bret wants to put a definitive *finis* to the conflict with his brother, he needs help. Not psychiatric help, though the Harts have reportedly been to family counseling. He needs ring help. He needs objective muscle help. He needs a tag team partner who is, in clinical terms, nuts.



If Bret really wants this feud to end, there's only one man for the job: Cactus Jack!

is. He could be the decisive ingredient. He could actually end this thing for good."



Yokozuna and Owen Hart got their hands on the WWF World tag team belts (above) after Yoko crushed Billy Gunn at WrestleMania XI (left). We suspect Yoko would have a much harder time squashing Cactus.



There are no locks on the doors of Cactus Jack's New Mexico compound, and with good reason. Why would a man who has no fear of anything need locks?

"Let 'em break in if they want," Jack laughed. "The only thing they're gonna find is trouble."

Cactus Jack traces his lineage



Yes, Cactus can be a team player. He has helped Shane Douglas pummel Terry Funk in ECW. Hmmmmmm, Cactus and Bret ... that would be an interesting—and probably very effective—pairing.

to the gunslingers of the Wild West, and, more recently, to Bruiser Brody. He thinks he might actually be a distant relative, if not in blood, then at least in spirit. The similarities are startling. Beyond the unkempt mane of hair, the permanent smile/scowl, and the ruthless ring attitude beats the rare heart of a real-life mercenary.

"Ain't many of us left," Jack said. "Nowadays every bad boy is sucking up to federations. I don't care about titles. I just want to get paid for what I do best: beat the hell out of people!"

What Jack does is bounce into a territory like a force of nature, causing pain, injury, and destruction. After he leaves, things are never the same. Would he be interested in hitching up to the Hart feud?

"Makes no difference to me," he said. "I'll wrestle Bret one day, Owen the next, and Stu the next, if that's what it takes. Sounds like a great payday for me, the way the thing never seems to end. I'll

say one thing, though: When I come on board, someone is gonna feel pain. Someone ain't gonna want to wrestle anymore!

"You media types think my talent is being nuts," he continued. "What separates me from the pack is my ability to focus. My mother could be in the ring, and I wouldn't care. I'm focusing on my opponent. He has no identity other than being the man I want to destroy. That's a rare gift. I'm grateful to have it."

Could he end the feud?

"Hell, yes!" he screamed immediately. "Like you say, I'm a force of nature. After I come through town, people stop and re-evaluate their lives. After I'm done with Owen, Bret will feel differently. Owen will feel different. Yokozuna will feel different. I'll stuff his fat carcass full of rice and airmail him back to Samoa, or wherever he comes from! The whole damn Hart family will feel different!"

While neither Hart brother would comment, a family friend

confided that bringing Cactus Jack aboard could be the best thing that might happen, if not the worst.

"Best case scenario is that Jack neutralizes Yokozuna, and it allows Bret and Owen to fight the feud right out of their system," the friend said. "On the other hand, adding a trump card like Jack could cause this thing to drag on for years and years.

"And the family can't stand much more of this. It's taking a toll on everyone, especially the parents."

"Not a chance of that happening," Cactus Jack said. "I get a piece of one of them, there won't be anything left for the other. I like a good steady payday, but I get bored beating on the same bodies for too long. You want the Hart feud to end, I'm the man. You want them to bury the hatchet, get me in there. I'll put the fear of God in 'em all. Hell, they'll love each other to death after I'm done." □



Cactus freely admits he isn't after titles these days. He considers himself a very dangerous mercenary. Owen might never dare attack Bret again if Jack banged some sense into his head with a few piledrivers on the concrete floor.



THE  
PAY-PER-VIEW  
MATCH  
THAT  
SAVED  
STING'S  
CAREER!



Sting has been in WCW so long, he sometimes seems like a forgotten man. A key loss to Big Bubba Rogers at WCW Uncensored had him considering taking drastic action. Then came the rematch



It looked like Sting put a little extra behind his clothesline at Slamboree. He had to—his pride, and maybe even his career, was on the line against Big Bubba Rogers (above). Bubba's sideslam hurt Sting, but not enough. Rogers would have needed a superhuman effort to beat Sting that night because that's the kind of effort Sting gave (below).



**By Steve Anderson**

**T**HERE ARE VERY few constants in wrestling. Just when we think we've seen it all, Ric Flair goes to the WWF and Hulk Hogan shows up in WCW. Seeing wrestlers move from federation to federation has become so commonplace, we forget the wrestlers who

Photos by Jim Varsillone



Sting wanted the "lights-out" match against Bubba. He wanted a match in which he could legally smash and better him with a wooden table. Most of all, he wanted to serve notice that he is still a major force in WCW.



actually have some stability in their lives. We forget the ones who have stuck with their promotions through good times and bad.

We forget about men like Sting.

Not that Sting has done anything particularly memorable lately. He spent the first half of '95 mired in a slump that would have caused most wrestlers to turn bad or switch promotions. He had been muscled out of the spotlight by Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, and even The Renegade. His last WCW World title reign, in March 1993, barely outdistanced Tommy Rich's forgettable tenure a decade earlier. But that was nothing compared to what happened at WCW Uncensored. He was upset—and we mean *upset*—by Big Bubba Rogers. Pinned cleanly in the middle of the ring.

That loss, coupled with an earlier defeat at the hands of Antonio Inoki in Japan, caused Sting to

seriously reflect on his career. The stunning defeats and the transfer to the lower echelon of WCW in the eyes of certain high-ranking officials (and even some fans) were almost too much for him to bear. The mental anguish caused by these significant setbacks was at least as brutal as the physical pain from the worst injuries that kept Sting from wrestling in years past.

Like a desperate, unlucky gambler on a losing streak, Sting put all his chips on the table. He challenged Rogers to a rematch at Slamboree. This time it would be "lights out." No rules. No excuses if he lost again.

Sting knew what this match meant. He could recover most of what was lost in the last few months if he won. A decisive victory over Bubba would be the cure for his ailing career. There wasn't a title match that would have more significance. If he won, he'd build on his victory. If he lost ...

That's where speculation and informed sources come into play. Although Sting remained silent on the matter, many of those who frequent his Atlanta gym were aware of his intentions.

"In a half-joking, half-serious way, he said that if he lost at Slamboree, we'd be seeing a lot more of him," said one gym employee who requested anonymity.

"Sting told me that another loss to this Bubba fellow," concurred a second source at the gym, "and he probably would have retired, taken a long break, or



With Sting's "Stinger" splash working as well as ever at Slamboree, it's hard to believe that there were rumors about Sting considering retirement floating around just before the pay-per-view.



taken a long, hard, serious look at another promotion."

In the moments before the match at Slamboree, Sting was surprisingly calm, as if the outcome was out of his hands. Whatever happened, he would be clear on his career route.

"What does this match mean to

Rogers makes the mistake of signaling to the crowd that the match is all but over (right). The end didn't really come until Sting strained a few of Bubba's leg muscles with his scorpion deathlock (below).



you, Sting?" asked one reporter.

"Mean?" queried Sting. "It means that if I beat Bubba—with no rules and no excuses—I can put an end to all of this talk that I'm in a slump or something. It means I can move on to better things."

"And if you don't?" the reporter asked foolishly.

Sting again went silent. The silence was almost eerie. Just when it appeared he was about to go into a classic "Stinger" tirade, he quietly said, "Well, I'll jump off that bridge if I come to it."

With that, he left with his music blaring in the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg, Florida. He didn't reflect on past regrets, because everything that was important seemed to be in front of him. Rogers was not so much an opponent as he was a catalyst. Past World titles, awards, and "people's champion" designations were forgotten.

It was just Bubba and Sting.

But a funny thing happened on the way to a possible retirement: Sting beat Rogers. He dominated

Rogers. He humiliated Rogers.

The postmatch press conference was a completely different story. There was Sting, bruised and battered with traces of face paint clinging to his body, fired up and talking about the future. "This victory has given me more satisfaction than any title or grudge match ever has before. It's onward and upward from here. The U.S. title tournament and who knows what else. *Owwwww!*"

Then Sting was asked the \$64,000 question about that hiatus he might or might not have been planning had he not beaten Rogers and come out of this slump.

"Where did you hear that?" Sting asked with a smile. "Look, we all go

through ups and downs. Moments like this can definitely change your attitude and perspective on things."

In a nutshell, Sting neither confirmed nor denied the rumor. At that point, the rumor was irrelevant. Whether he ever contemplated a hiatus or confided in his associates about a possible retirement doesn't matter. One constant in wrestling for nearly

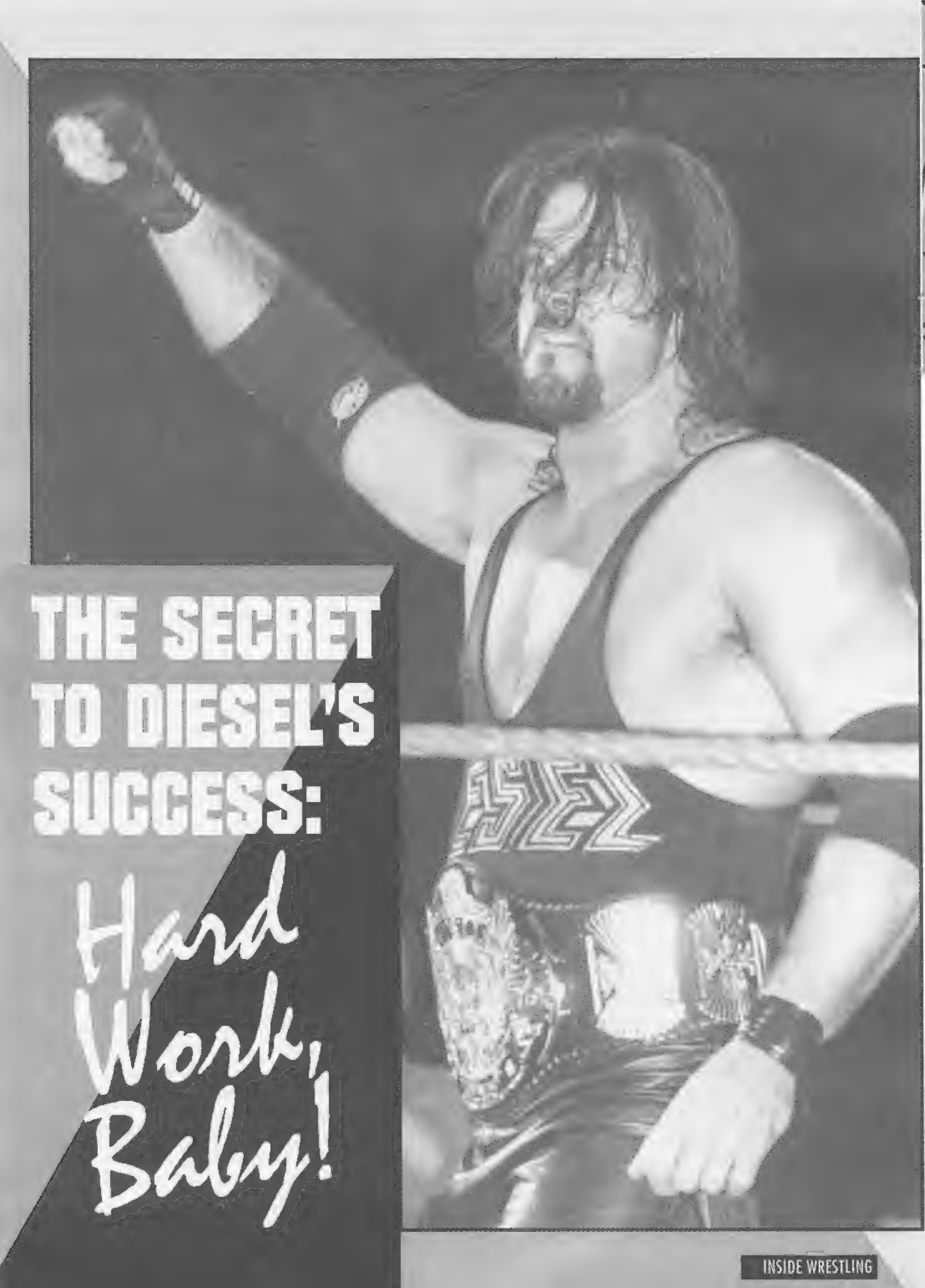
a decade has been Sting in WCW, and it should remain that way for a long time. All those men gunning for the U.S. title—not to mention World champion Hogan—better look over their shoulders.

Momentum has always been important to the "Stinger." The road to all his major title victories began with one very significant step. Beating Rogers after losing to him in embarrassing fashion two months earlier may have been that first step toward another title reign.

"WCW is my home," said Sting. "And if I want to mess up my home with the bodies of my competition, then that's exactly what I'm gonna do."

With those words of wisdom, Sting departed to the confines of his locker room. He knows there will be more bad nights and rough roads ahead. But on May 21, 1995—even though he didn't have a belt—he felt like he was on top of the world again.

Sting is painted up and on the warpath again. Bubba was only the beginning. □



**THE SECRET  
TO DIESEL'S  
SUCCESS:**

*Hard  
Work,  
Baby!*



**How do you become a world champion? Ask Diesel, and he'll tell you to work hard. And if that doesn't quite do the trick, try working harder!**

When Diesel's not wrestling, sleeping, or eating, you can probably find him in the gym. He's the WWF World champion, and he knows how important it is to have the body of a champion.

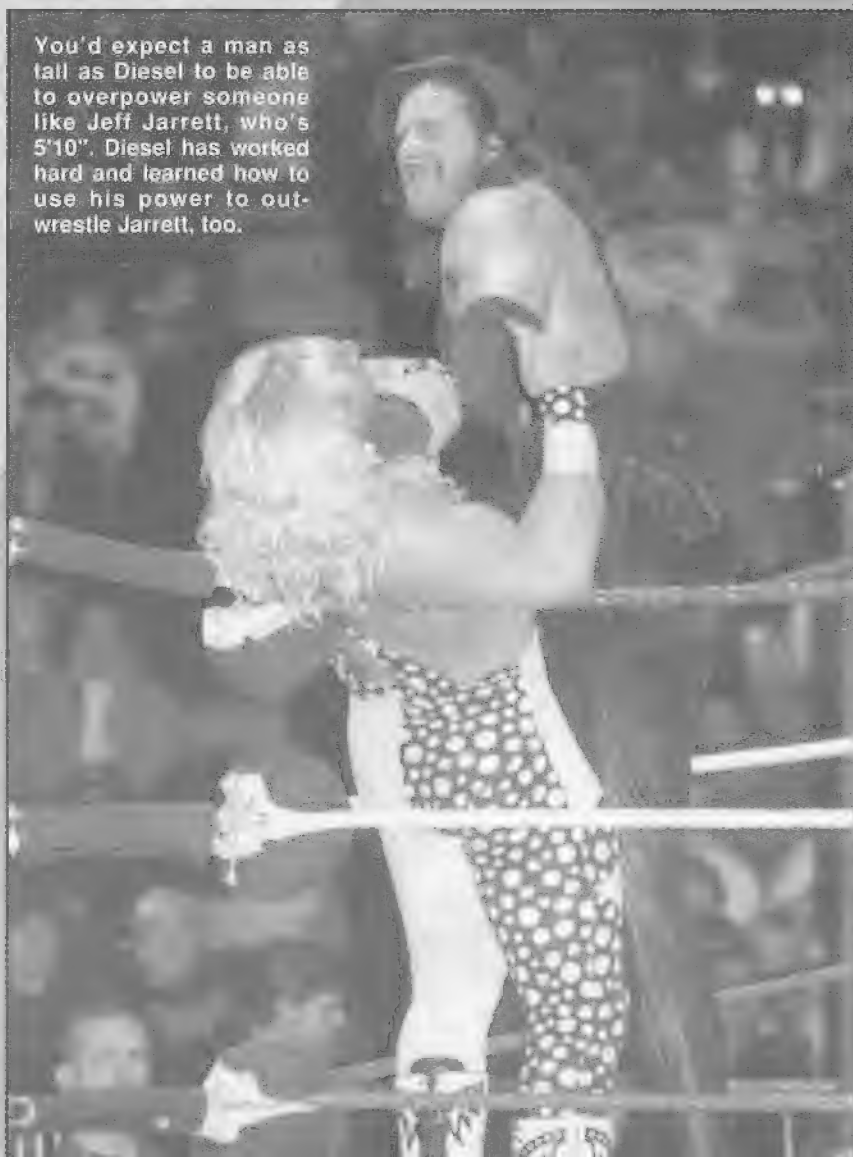
**T**HERE IS PAIN, and then there is *pain*. Pain of the soul. Pain born from idleness. It can be chronic, and it can be acute—short in duration but debilitating enough to emotionally cripple a man.

Back in June, forlorn-looking WWF champ Diesel was battling acute pain, but the stinging sensation in his right elbow was the least of his concerns.

This was not the way wrestling fans have grown accustomed to seeing their tireless champion. Just days after having surgery to repair torn tendons and remove bone spurs in his elbow, Diesel was recuperating and reflecting upon what *could* be—what *should* be. A man satisfied only by living up to his own demanding standards, he was forced to the sidelines because of an injury he sustained during a match against Sid Vicious at In Your House.

"I was wrestling Sid," Diesel recounted. "It started from a choke-slam, then when Sid power-bombed me, I landed on the elbow and jammed it. I knew right away I was in trouble."

You'd expect a man as tall as Diesel to be able to overpower someone like Jeff Jarrett, who's 5'10". Diesel has worked hard and learned how to use his power to out-wrestle Jarrett, too.





That meant three to four more weeks of idleness. And for Diesel, that was a punishment worse than the physical pain of the injury.

"The layoff killed him," assessed one training partner. "Diesel is as self-confident and mentally strong as anyone. But he hates just sitting around."

Diesel is hard work personified, and his status as WWF World champion proves it. If he were a lazy man, he might be little more than a bouncer in a two-bit nightclub.



working constantly with training partners. He polished his own maneuvers, added the "jackknife," and worked on his foot speed. At 7' and 356 pounds, he wanted to be more than a behe-



Diesel learned a lot about wrestling when he was Shawn Michaels' bodyguard (left) and used that knowledge in his training. Michaels found out how far hard work could take a man when he lost to Diesel at WrestleMania XI (above).

moth sluggard who couldn't get out of his own way.

Diesel became WWF World champ because he wouldn't settle for anything less.

In retrospect, it seems ironic that he is now standing atop wrestling's mountain of success, peering down at the

little people struggling to get to the top. A former basketball player at the University of Tennessee, Diesel failed quite successfully when he wrestled in WCW as Vinnie Vegas.

By mid-1993, the career of Vinnie Vegas was as flat as an opened bottle of soda left out in the August sun for a month. Yet somehow, the wrestling gods smiled down upon him, introducing him to WWF star Shawn Michaels.

Michaels had a pirate's swagger, a rock star's popularity. But he was vulnerable to those bent on blindsiding him. He needed a bodyguard.

In June of 1993, Michaels' trumpeted new bodyguard was introduced to the WWF. Diesel had arrived, and Vinnie Vegas was an asterisk in WCW's record books.

At first, the Michaels-Diesel relationship was a marriage of convenience. Michaels wrestled; Diesel protected. Then Diesel learned some of the nuances of the sport from wrestling's best technical grappler. Michaels learned hard work and dedication can pay dividends. In time, Michaels' popularity grew and transformed him into a cult hero. Diesel? He kept training, day and night.

It was just a matter of time before this reincarnated Vinnie Vegas found himself back in the ring. After Michaels was stripped of his Intercontinental title, Diesel ventured out on his own, establishing himself as a bona fide wrestler at the 1994 Royal Rumble by eliminating seven

straight wrestlers.

Although he didn't win, he had made his mark. Fans began to keep their eyes on this fearsome man with the steely eyes and fierce grin. Once a pupil of the sport, he'd dissected the game into three basic components: train, do your reps in the gym, and learn every move you can so you can handle any opponent.

And while Diesel built himself into a contender, Michaels built up his own narcissistic image. Despite their growing differences, the duo beat The Headshrinkers for the WWF World tag team title on August 28, 1994.

The friendship, however, was falling apart. At Survivor Series '94, it was torn to shreds, and they vacated the tag team title. Three days later,

"There's no question he overcame technical shortcomings through hard work," observed a source close to Diesel. "No wrestler works harder. Up-and-comers should pay attention to his daily regimen; it's what made him champion."

WWF Intercontinental champion, World tag team champion, and World champion, to be more specific. All in 1994. A dream year. He did it by

Diesel was WWF World champion, having beaten Bob Backlund in eight seconds.

"I made him everything he is today," an incensed Michaels said. "I've been waiting seven years for a title shot, and he gets it in a year!"

It would have been easy for Diesel to sit back, get fat, and fill his personal coffers. Not this man of substance. He went back to work, defending his crown with the same lust and dedication it took to win the title. Wrestling became a chess match, and he wanted to perfect every move.

He withstood Bret Hart's challenge at the 1995 Royal Rumble. He overcame Michaels, with Sid Vicious assuming the "Heartbreak Kid's" bodyguard post.

Then came Michaels' decision to fire Sid, which was followed by Vicious' decision to power-bomb Michaels, which was followed by Diesel's decision to save Michaels and renew their friendship. A few weeks later, after being publicly



"Big Daddy Cool's" upper-body strength is unbelievable. Maybe Mr. Bob Backlund, who thinks practically everyone in the U.S. is lazy, could learn something about hard work from Diesel.

humiliated by manager Ted DiBiase, Bam Bam Bigelow stunned the wrestling community by pledging his undying friendship to "Big Daddy Cool."

Bigelow, his ego crushed, sought a stabilizing force in his life. Someone who could teach him what it takes to be a world champion—someone who could show him how to sharpen his mind and soul by exercising his body.

"I would be proud to call this man a friend," Bigelow proclaimed of Diesel. Days later, they were spotted

working out together in a gym.

Thus, Bigelow and Diesel united to try to "bankrupt" the Million-Dollar Corporation. Together with Michaels, they have built a new partnership whose goal will be to eradicate the federation of the lazy, the slovenly, the materialistic, and the egocentric.

Perhaps they'll call this group the HWC, for Hard-Working Corporation. Certainly any wrestling fan can guess the identity of the organization's CEO: "Big Daddy Cool." □



Three years ago, when he was just a big, powerful man and not a great wrestler, Diesel wouldn't have stood a chance against Bret Hart. He has, however, held his own against him recently.

**"IT'S TIME YOU ALL STOPPED LIVING IN THE PAST!"**

**S**INCE THE DAY after SummerSlam 1992, millions of wrestling fans have clamored for a reunion of The Road Warriors. That's the last time Hawk and Animal wrestled as a team. Animal has had a hard time recovering from a back injury during the last few years. Outside of a successful partnership with

Kensuke Sasaki, Road Warrior Hawk has plied his trade primarily as a singles wrestler.

But Hawk would like nothing more than to reunite with his life-long friend. Rumors that The Road Warriors were getting back together and would return to WCW intensified this spring, but Animal's reluctance to test his

back and return to the mat wars has kept a possible reunion from becoming reality.

Growing impatient, Hawk decided the time to return to WCW was now. He stunned WCW fans and officials by saving Brian Pillman from a vicious attack by Meng in a pre-Slamboree U.S. title tourney match. It was a confrontation that led to a match on the pay-per-view broadcast later that evening.

His frustration with the outcome—a double-countout—did not match the frustration he vented to reporters after the match. No one, it seemed, wanted to talk about the match. They all asked, "Where's Animal?" and "When's The Legion of Doom coming back?"

Although exasperated, Hawk agreed to talk to Senior Writer Steve Anderson. "He was tense," Anderson reported. "He had a lot to get off his chest!"

**Q:** First of all, Hawk, I want to thank ...


**A:** Go ahead, Anderson, ask me.

**Q:** Ask you what?

**A:** When is Hawk going to reunite with Animal and reform the greatest tag team in the history of the world?

**Q:** Actually, I was going to ask you ...

**A:** Oh, come on. Cut me a



Hawk got moral support from Animal (standing at ringside) when he beat Scott Norton earlier this year. But he'd still rather talk about his singles career than Animal's timetable for returning.





break, twerp. I can see it on that face of yours. (*Hawk sticks his finger in Anderson's face.*) So ask me!

**Q:** All right. Calm down. When are The Road Warriors going to reunite?

**A:** Now that's just the kind of question that really ticks me off! All the success I've had in singles wrestling with independent promotions, Japan, ECW, and WCW ... I can't believe I'm still getting that question.

**Q:** But the fans want ...

**A:** The fans? You mean the people who cheer for me and look for Animal over my shoulder at the same time? You pass on a message to the fans for me, Anderson!

**Q:** And that would be ...

**A:** It's time you all stopped living in the past! I'm here. Animal's not here right now. I don't see him anywhere, do you? Where is he? You tell me!

**Q:** Okay, you have a point.

**A:** (*Calling out and looking around the room*) Animal! Animal! Where are you? Come out, come out wherever you are!

**Q:** Okay, I said you made your point. Let's talk about your singles career since, well ... you know, since you broke up with Animal.

**A:** That's more like it. Did you see how I handled Meng tonight? Did you see the fear in his eyes? Wrestling me is like committing suicide, only more painful. Think I need a tag team partner? I don't think so.

**Q:** Well now that you're back in WCW, what's the future for Hawk the singles wrestler?

**A:** The future? (*Raising his fists*) These are the only crystal balls I have. They determine my

future just fine. After Meng, who knows. There are a few titles I wouldn't mind taking for myself.

**Q:** World, U.S., TV ... any in particular?

**A:** Any and all of the above. I'm becoming the Rodney Dangerfield of singles wrestling. No

what his future is.

**Q:** Any possible partners?

**A:** [Kensuke] Sasaki and I were a machine for a lot of months. We rolled over everything we saw in Japan. I like Vader's style. Maybe Sting. Any title is mine for the taking, tag team or singles.

**Q:** Could that be construed as a subtle warning to Hogan?

**A:** Construed? I'm not sure I know what the hell that word means. But you could say I'm warning Hogan. I think "Hawk" would fit on the nameplate of that World belt just fine. Remember how close I came in 1986 to beating Flair for that strap?

**Q:** I remember it well.

**A:** Good for you. You know, that's the problem. People forget about it, or they remember it and choose to ignore it. Animal and I were never two halves making a

whole. We were two wholes making an even bigger whole.

**Q:** But first things first. Is a rematch with Meng imminent?

**A:** Count on it. That gerbil-faced twit from Tonga or wherever the hell it is and his cowboy manager haven't seen the last of this monster with a twisted mind.

**Q:** Beating Meng would put you in line for title shots and maybe finally give you the singles credibility you've been longing for.

**A:** I've never needed credibility—or acceptance. I do what I have to do to win. The competition here is tough. That's why I'm here—'cause I'm tougher.

**Q:** You were successful in Japan. Any chance of returning there with or without a WCW title belt?

**A:** Sure. I'd love it. To show the fans over there I can succeed on my own on American soil would mean a lot.



**"I'M BECOMING  
THE RODNEY  
DANGERFIELD  
OF SINGLES  
WRESTLING. NO  
MATTER WHAT I  
DO, I CAN'T GET  
NO RESPECT!"**

matter what I do, I can't get no respect!

**Q:** Okay, I have to ask this one. How about the World tag team title?

**A:** Look, when you're big like me, you can tag with anyone and win the title. And I mean *anyone*! Sure I'd like Animal to team with, but he's not ready. He may never be ready. It's up to him to decide



We might never see a picture like this taken again. Hawk indicated he hardly keeps in touch with former manager Paul Ellering and says it's entirely up to Animal to decide if he has any future in wrestling.

the fans and you reporters not live in the past. Don't get me wrong. I'm proud of the L.O.D.'s accomplishments. No one will ever touch our triple crown of tag titles—AWA, WWF, and WCW. But it's a new era for me and for Animal, whether we're together or not.

**Q:** Have you spoken to Animal recently? What's his timetable? And is WCW in his future? And any chance Paul Ellering will be back to manage you guys again?

**A:** Too many questions! Animal does whatever Animal wants to do. He's enjoying his time off, but he's gettin'

tired of bar fights. Takes more out of you and you don't get paid. I don't talk to Ellering much anymore.

**Q:** Would Animal be willing to give singles wrestling a try?

**A:** Animal? Sure. Can you imagine the two of us dominating singles and tag team wrestling? We'd ... hey, wait a minute, there you go again asking me about Animal!

**Q:** Sorry, Hawk, but I thought I'd ...

**A:** You thought nothin'. That's your problem. How many times do I have to tell you, Anderson? Animal's not here! I'm here. You might as well be talkin' about Casper, because it's all an illusion. Past history. Not present. And maybe not future.

**Q:** All right, Hawk. You pick the subject, we'll talk about it.

**A:** Okay, how about my favorite subject: beatin' people up. Beatin' up wrestlers, bums on the streets, and reporters who are tickin' me off.

**Q:** I think that about wraps it up, Hawk. I just want to thank you for your time. Any final comments?

**A:** No! □

**Q:** The Japanese revere you as if you were one of their own.

**A:** They love all the monsters. Look at Godzilla. Then look at me. I make Godzilla look like Big Bird.

**Q:** Talk to me about the current state of tag team wrestling in WCW.

**A:** Well, when Animal and me teamed, it was L.O.D. and then everyone else way below us. No one could touch us. The Nasty Boys? We wiped the mat with them. Harlem Heat? Come on, now. The Blue Bloods? Give me a break—we'd crush their crumpets in about 30 seconds. Last time I saw Bobby Eaton, he was splattered on the mat from a scaffold fall.

**Q:** You certainly seem more at ease talking about tag team wrestling now than you did a little while ago.

**A:** I'm not gonna live in the past. And all I'm asking is that



Hawk made a surprise appearance at Slamboree and held Meng to a double-countout. He says he saw fear in the martial artist's eyes and served notice he might go after all of WCW's titles.



# BUCKLE

## WRESTLING'S MOST VERSATILE

# WEAPON

The experienced wrestler uses everything at his disposal, and one of those things is the turnbuckle. It can serve as a boxing glove, a launching pad, or even a makeshift pair of brass knuckles!

Mascarita Sagrada, one of AAA's finest, uses the top turnbuckle to balance himself during a handstand. That may be the most innovative use of a turnbuckle, but not the most lethal.



## By Chris Bernucca

**J**OHNNY B. BADD wanted to use his powerful right hand, but it hurt like hell. He had hurt it while pounding the head of Paul Orndorff, and he could not close it tight enough to make a fist. The hand ached; there was still some work to be done, so he did the next best thing: Badd grabbed Orndorff by the hair and began ramming his face into the turnbuckle. Six ... seven ... eight times, until the crowd got tired of counting.

"The turnbuckle is a great weapon," the former boxer said after the match, his right hand immersed in a bucket of ice. "It's better than hitting an opponent in the face, because there's no chance of breaking your hand or cutting your hand on his teeth. It's like a stationary boxing glove loaded with metal."

Badd gives a perfect description of one of the many aspects of the turnbuckle. But in addition to being a stationary boxing glove, it can serve as a takeoff point for an aerial maneuver or the finish line for an Irish whip. When exposed to its bare metal, the turnbuckle's effectiveness is multiplied. Even its padding—which is supposed to soften blows—has been used as a weapon inside the squared circle. The experienced wrestler knows that the turnbuckle is one of the most versatile weapons at his disposal.

Just ask Sabu, who is perhaps the greatest aerial wrestler in the world today. His entire plan of attack centers around daring launches, many of which originate from the top turnbuckle.

"They're like the steps of a ladder," he said through an interpreter. "The corners are where they secure the ring ropes, and



Sabu can get tremendous height on his splashes and moonsaults because he is an incredible athlete ... and because he knows how to use the area around the turnbuckle as a springboard.

those cables are tight. Standing on the top turnbuckle is not as hard as it looks. It's stable and doesn't shake as much as the ropes."

Sabu clearly overcame his fear of flying long ago and says the turnbuckle provides a variety of flight patterns.

"It takes two quick steps to get to the top," he said. "From there, I can go into a backflip, or a splash, or a moonsault, or whatever. And it doesn't matter if my target is inside or outside the ring. From the top turnbuckle, he's within my reach."

Most wrestlers don't have the courage or the confidence that Sabu has to use the turnbuckle as a launching pad. Brian Lee prefers to use the corner for crash landings—for his opponent. Lee likes the corner because it doesn't have the resiliency of the ropes.

"When I whip somebody into the corner, he stays there, period!" said Lee, currently a dominant force in the USWA. "No bouncing back at you, no soft landing. I whip him in—*Wham!*—and that top turnbuckle drives right into his back and neck. It knocks the wind



George "The Animal" Steele didn't use the turnbuckles themselves as weapons—he took the stuffing out of them and rubbed it in opponents' eyes! Hey, it worked for him.

right out of him, and there ain't much fight in a wrestler who can't breathe. Plus, he's in the corner, which is the worst place to get trapped in a match."

Lee learned to appreciate the turnbuckle more than the center of the ropes some years ago, when one of his shoulderblocks didn't exactly do its job.

"When you throw someone into the ropes, he's coming back at you twice as fast as he went away from you," he explained. "If he's able to square his shoulders or regain his balance, he's going to

slam into you and knock you on your butt, no matter how much of a weight advantage you have. And that's what happened to me. I'm gonna keep throwing guys into the corner. They have a tendency to stay there, you know what I mean?"

Badd's use of the turnbuckle is the most conventional one, and the advantages are twofold: While serving the purpose of a stationary boxing glove, it also allows a wrestler to conceal an injury or mask a weakness.

"I remember a match a couple

of years ago," explained Rick Steamboat, who is now retired. "Rick Rude had slammed me on my right side and gave me what we call a 'stinger' in my right shoulder. My right hand was totally numb. I couldn't lift my right arm at all. But I got him trapped in the corner, and I used my left hand to slam his face against the buckle. He came up with stars in his eyes



Big Van Vader not only launches moonsaults from the top turnbuckle, he uses the area around the turnbuckles to steady himself as he comes crashing down with reverse splashes from the second rope.



and a bloody nose.

"I knew he was woozy, and I was still hurting, so I went for a dropkick and quick pin and got it. The fans were cheering as I left and I waved to them—with my left hand. They didn't know how bad I was hurt."

There have been some unconventional uses of the turnbuckle, normally deployed by rulebreakers



Hulk Hogan does nothing fancy with turnbuckles; he grabs Paul Orndorff by the head and slams him into the corner. Johnny B. Badd calls the turnbuckle "a stationary boxing glove loaded with metal."

looking to gain an unfair advantage. The most celebrated strategy was that of George "The Animal" Steele, who would tear open the cloth cover of the turnbuckle and put the stuffing in his mouth. He would then wrap his opponent in a headlock and remove the stuffing from his mouth to rub in his foe's eyes, temporarily blinding him.

Today's rulebreakers are not quite as inventive. Most simply remove the padding, exposing the hard metal bolt that holds the ropes tight to the support pole. Paul E. Dangerously's Dangerous Alliance used the strategy in a War Games match against "Sting's Squadron" a couple of years ago and Razor Ramon was a victim of similar tactics by Diesel in their Intercontinental title match in April of 1994 in Rochester, New York.

"In that War Games match, I think Arn Anderson and Steve Austin disconnected the whole darn turnbuckle," recalled Sting. "Then they used the coupling to clobber us, like oversized brass knuckles. I don't know what these guys will think of next."

When a turnbuckle is involved, almost anything is possible. □

Pit Bull II uses the top turnbuckle and ropes to steady a table. From this makeshift launching pad, he slams Rocco Rock onto the mat below. With new and creative uses like this, the turnbuckle will never become just another part of the ring.



The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

**B**OB ARMSTRONG AND Jim Cornette have a history. Less than two years ago, Armstrong and Cornette battled bitterly over control of Smoky Mountain Wrestling. When Armstrong lost a "loser-leaves-SMW" match to Terry Funk, Cornette became SMW commissioner, and the federation was thrown into upheaval.

That didn't last long. Armstrong returned under a mask as The Bullet and Cornette eventually lost his job. But their feud continued.

By the end of 1994, however, Cornette had gotten sidetracked by a new feud. On Christmas night, The Gangstas attacked Cornette after losing the SMW tag belts to The Rock 'n' Roll Express, who were then managed by Cornette. Suddenly, for the first time in his career, Cornette found himself on the side of the fan favorites: the Rock 'n' Rolls and, incredibly, the Armstrongs.

His feud with The Gangstas became so intense that Cornette eventually gave Funk \$50,000 to team with Armstrong at "Volunteer Slam IV" on May 19 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Cornette's money seemed well-spent when Funk and Armstrong beat The Gangstas in a Texas death match and New Jack was carried back to the locker room on a stretcher. But the fun wasn't over.

Cornette grabbed the house microphone and proceeded to thank Armstrong for helping him in his feud with The Gangstas. He said he had a present for him. The present turned out to be a fireball to the face. Then Funk piledrived and pummeled Armstrong. The scene became more chaotic when Funk wrapped a noose around

# ONE O



**"You and those sons of yours think you're the saviors of wrestling. I can assure you that wrestling will get along just fine without the Armstrongs!"**

**—Jim Cornette**

Armstrong's neck and Cornette rubbed his shoe in Armstrong's face. Steve Armstrong and Boo Bradley came out to help Bob, but The Punisher and Buddy Landell neutralized them.

Everything old is new again in SMW. Bob Armstrong and Jim Cornette are at war ... and were at each other's throats when we got them together, "One On One."

**BOB ARMSTRONG:** You coward, Cornette! I'm surprised you even have the guts to talk to me from the other side of the phone.

**JIM CORNETTE:** That's because I know something you don't, old man.

**BA:** What's that, Cornette?

**JC:** That people can't climb through phone lines! (laughs)

**BA:** Very funny, Corny, but not

nearly as funny as what's about to happen to you. It's over for you. Your career in Smoky Mountain is about to come to a violent end, and there's nothing you can do about it. You've got me angry this time, and when I'm angry ...

**JC:** Yeah, what about it, "Bullet"? Last time you got angry, I was Smoky Mountain commissioner and you were playing Halloween under a mask. C'mon, Bobby, let's hear it: What're you gonna do to me this time?

**BA:** That's gonna be a big surprise to you, Cornette. I'm not giving away my plans, not to a foul-mouthed turncoat like you. You know, Cornette, the problem with you is that you don't have any pride. Things like friendship, trust, and values mean nothing to you. You're not even human. You're not even like an animal. At least animals are loyal.

# NONE



**"You're not even human. You're not even like an animal. At least animals are loyal. You're something else entirely, like some kind of alien form!"**

**—Bob Armstrong**

You're something else entirely, like some kind of alien form.

**JC:** (laughing) Heck, that's a good one, Bobby. That's real good. You tired from doin' all that talkin' without a break? Do you think that maybe I'm some kind of Martian? Maybe I came from Pluto or Jupiter, or maybe a galaxy far, far away? Heck, I should go after a part on *Star Trek* the way you're putting it! I must be something extra special!

**BA:** You're nothing special, Cornette, nothing at all. You're a lowlife. What happened to that \$50,000 you supposedly gave Funk to come in and team with me? Was that for real?

**JC:** Nah, old man, Funk said I didn't have to pay him after all because he got so much pleasure from beating the life out of you. Heck, I have all kinds of

people grateful to me now: Buddy Landell, The Punisher ... they couldn't wait for the chance to get in that ring and teach you a few lessons.

**BA:** About what? Tell me these lessons, because I didn't get them.

**JC:** Well, then, maybe we'll just have to send you to summer school and teach them all over. You know what I'm talking about? You couldn't have been stupid enough to think I'd let bygones be bygones, Armstrong. Remember what I said: When somebody does me wrong, I never forget it. I keep on going after that person until I get revenge. The Gangstas wronged me, but so did you. What they did doesn't cancel out what you tried to do.

**BA:** The only thing I tried to do was save Smoky Mountain Wrestling from a fate worse than death. I'm talking about

having you as commissioner.

**JC:** I know what you're talking about, Armstrong, but nobody's buying it. Remember, you're the one who lost that "loser-leaves-SMW" match and then came back under a mask. What's that all about? Tell me. People call me and Funk the rulebreakers, but you're the one breaking all the rules.

**BA:** That was a special situation, Cornette. And no one has any proof that it was me under The Bullet's mask.

**JC:** Why was it special ... because you got the short end of the stick and I got the long end once again? Is that your problem, Armstrong?

**BA:** It was different because you're a rulebreaker, and rulebreakers have no business running this federation.

**JC:** Yeah, and by that same reasoning, the Democrats say the Republicans have no business running this country, and the Republicans say the same things about the Democrats. You know what your real problem is, Armstrong? You can't see past your own nose. You and those sons of yours think you're the saviors of wrestling. I can assure you that wrestling will get along just fine without the Armstrongs! But if I was ever gone, people would miss me. I'm an entertainer. I'm the star around here, Armstrong.

**BA:** You're a curiosity, Cornette, that's all you are, but this time you're a short-lived curiosity. Believe me, the SMW officials aren't going to look too happily upon what you've done. Maybe if you'd shown a little courage, Corny, but that was a cowardly sneak-attack.

**JC:** It was a stroke of genius, Armstrong. Care to replay it with me? Hey, who cares what you say! Just think: In the same night, I got revenge on The Gangstas and you, and I got you to help me with one of them! Then you thought I was going to give you some kind of present! How stupid can you be? Well, you answered that question for me.

**BA:** I might not be the smartest man on this planet, Cornette, but I'm a better man than you are. I've dealt with you once, and I'll deal with you again. Cornette, you're dead meat.

**JC:** Armstrong, you're just meat. □



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**Sincerely Yours**

(Continued from page 5)

to be encouraging his son rather than criticizing his every move. It is this type of nurturing that has made Scott develop into a talented, confident wrestler who is not ashamed to wrestle using his family name. All too often, second-generation wrestlers are driven by their fathers. It seems that many fathers expect their sons to accomplish as much as they did during their illustrious careers, but in a shorter amount of time. With this type of pressure, it must be very hard to excel.

I respect the relationship that Scott and Ivan Putski have, and I wish more wrestling families could be so strong.

FRED TWININGS

New Orleans

**LUCK OF THE HILLBILLY**

Jacob and Eli Blu have been doing pretty well, I think, since entering the WWF ("No Longer Singing The Bruise: Jacob & Eli: The 48 Seconds That Changed Their Lives," July 1995). Just because they didn't make it in WCW, they didn't give up on wrestling. Instead, they regrouped, entered the WWF, and immediately became one of the top teams in the federation. Now they are gearing up for a run at the WWF World tag team title.

They went from an expendable team to a excellent team in a little more than a year. It just goes to show you that if you stick to your dreams, you just might succeed ... or at least get lucky.

HENRY WALLER  
Macon, GA



Alex Wright has stopped dancing before and after matches and is wrestling better than ever. Reader Alicia Taylor is impressed by "Das Wunderkind's" talents.

**COOLING TREND**

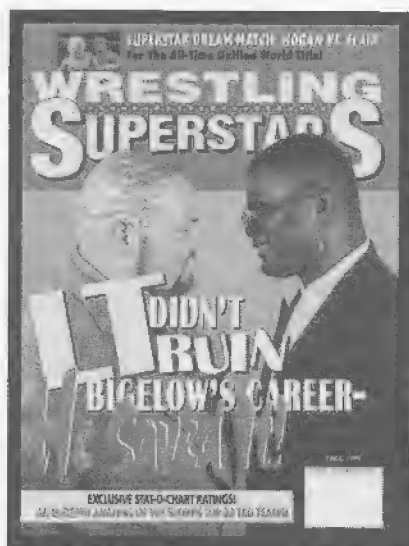
I think that your "uncool" rating of Alex Wright can be updated to "becoming cool since he doesn't do that weird dance anymore" ("Wrestling Cool! What's In—And Why—In The Mat Sport Today," July 1995). Since he stopped gyrating his hips at the crowd, "Das Wunderkind" has really begun to show the fans just how talented a wrestler he is. He has won a lot of tough matches and is even doing well against talented veterans like Arn Anderson.

He may not be doing the "uncool" dance anymore, but he is certainly on a hot winning streak that's too cool to ignore.

ALICIA TAYLOR  
Kitchener, Ontario □

# This Month In...

## WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

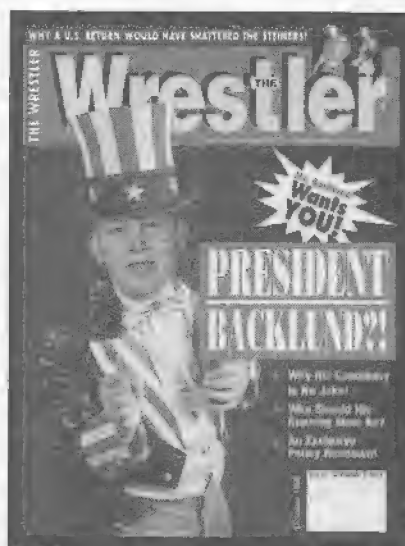


Back in April, **LAWRENCE TAYLOR** and **BAM BAM BIGELOW** battled in a memorable WrestleMania XI match. No one knew it then, but LT might actually have saved Bam Bam's career! ... **HACKSAW DUGGAN** has a message for those who say **HULK HOGAN** only befriends people whom he can use ... **SID VICIOUS** hates it when people call him "Psycho." You might not believe it, but this "Psycho" is a killer with a heart of gold!... We rate the top 20 tag teams in the sport today.

All this—and much more!—in the Fall 1995 issue of *Wrestling Superstars*

**NOW ON SALE!**

## Wrestler



"**BACKLUNDMANIA**" is sweeping the nation! Okay, maybe not, but everybody's talking about his plans to run for President of the United States. We have the inside scoop about his platform and possible running mates! ... It now looks like **RICK** and **SCOTT STEINER** *won't* be making a full-time return to the U.S. And guess what? It was the best move they never made! ... **BRIAN PILLMAN** and **STEVE AUSTIN** are both struggling in WCW. The time is right for a **HOLLYWOOD BLONDS** sequel!

All this—and much more!—in the October 1995 issue of *The Wrestler*

**NOW ON SALE!**

## On The Road

(Continued from page 10)



Bruno Sammartino and Vince McMahon used to be broadcasting partners. Now they can't stand each other. Too bad, because few deserve to be inducted into the WWF Hall of Fame more than Bruno.

acclaimed basketball writer Hulk Hogan is seated in the first row.

As my girlfriend and I return from Tampa, it occurs to me that I have probably hit the hard 10 at the dice table more often than I have connected on the business-pleasure exacta. As my daughter cuts the pressurized air with a nasal sleep, several other things also occur to me.

Let's begin with something not even a promoter could concoct. There was a story in the news last month that claimed that doctors have experimented and found super glue to be more effective than stitches in closing cuts. Perhaps they got the idea from Sabu, who apparently was doing the exact same thing in Japan last year when he kept reopening a gash on his hand. No word yet as to whether miracle worker Sabu is working on a cure for AIDS.

Sabu was not scheduled to be at this year's Top of the Super Junior Tournament in Japan, but WCW grapplers Brian Pillman and Alex Wright were. The tourney was to take place from June 23 to July 13, and it would be interesting to see how Pillman and Wright fared against what is perennially a collection of the top light heavy-weight wrestlers in the world, because neither man has been making any headway at all in pursuit of a WCW crown. Pillman hasn't been the same wrestler since former WCW Vice President Bill Watts dropped the light heavy-weight division from competition during his "reign of error" in 1992. The 18-year-old Wright had gotten off to a quick start until he ran into a pair of wily veterans in Ric Flair and Arn Anderson.

If Pillman or Wright were to win the tournament, would he deserve a title shot in WCW based on his performance halfway around the world? He would if this space had anything to say about it. Raise your hand if you're already tired of Hogan-Flair-Vader-Savage. Okay, put 'em down. Don't you people use deodorant?

Okay, I apologize. Perhaps that stench isn't coming from you. It may be emanating from the WWF, which was to induct The Grand Wizard, Antonino Rocca, Fabulous Moolah, Ivan Putski, George "The Animal" Steele, Pedro Morales, and Ernie Ladd into its Hall of Fame on June 24 in Philadelphia. I'm not going to pick nits over any of these selections except to say that none of them deserves induction ahead of Bruno Sammartino.

I know there is a long-standing bitter feud between Sammartino and WWF head Vince McMahon. It's time to put aside this feud for one night—perhaps the federa-

tion's next visit to Sammartino's hometown of Pittsburgh—and induct the man whose WWF World title reign of almost eight years will probably never be surpassed. Both men have been acting like big babies for about 10 years now.

How do I know? Hey, I've been a father for 10 weeks. I'm an expert on babies. In fact, that cry I'm about to hear from Gary Michael Cappetta sounds just like one from my daughter. Cappetta will probably moan about being dropped from his job as WCW ring announcer, which paid him six figures a year, from what I understand. Gary, before you make a total jerk of yourself, let's get something straight: I don't care about inflection, fan rapport, or how you look in a tux. *Anyone* can read names off an index card!

Can you tell that I need a vacation? I just went on vacation and I need a vacation. But there is no time for another vacation, because summer is here. That means more hot wrestling cards are on the way: Bash At The Beach, SummerSlam, not to mention a bunch of great upcoming cards in ECW and Smoky Mountain. It's time to go home.

After wading through midtown traffic and the perilous routes of northern New Jersey, we are finally home. We tumble through the front door, put our daughter in her crib, and collapse into bed. The light on the answering machine is flashing, and I press it.

"Chris, this is Stu," the recording says. "I know you're in Florida on vacation, but call me when you get back. There are a lot of big cards coming up, and I need you to cover a lot of them."

Who can afford to take a vacation when there's so much work to be done? □



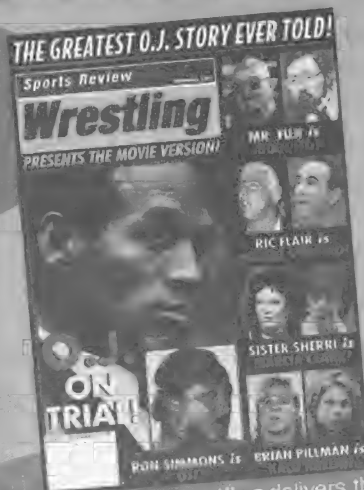
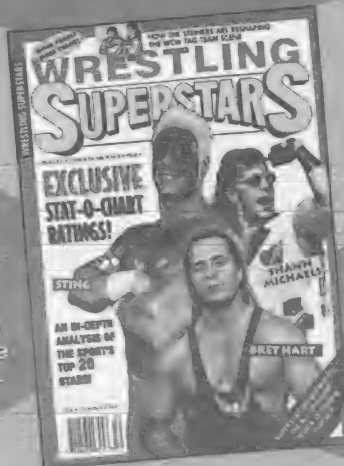
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## Behind the Door

(Continued from page 12)

had too much commentary lately and not enough columns about fun things." I resisted until Saks handed me a plane ticket to Atlanta and said, "Here. We've set up a one-on-one basketball game with Vader and some doubles tennis. You against Harlem Heat." That's doubles, I guess. Double-teaming.

And this isn't really one-on-one basketball. It is a joke. For instance, we warm up for about a minute when Vader announces, "Let's start. My ball. Winner's out."

Sure, I'm going to argue with a three-time former WCW World champion. Right. My mind instantly flashes back to what happened to Cactus Jack. Concussions and amnesia are two good reasons to never play Big Van Vader in *any* sport.

Back to the game. Vader takes the ball first, drives to the basket, sticks an elbow in my forehead, and tosses in a layup.

"Foul!" I scream.

"Be a man!" Vader growls. "This ain't no ballet!"

"One to nothing," Flair says. "Vader's ball!"

This time, Vader pulls up and launches a rock of a 20-footer. The ball bounces off the front of the rim and, I think, into my waiting hands. But Vader crashes into me from behind with a forearm—it feels like every bone in my body has just been adjusted—and picks up the loose ball. Layup, 2-0.

"You can't do that!" I protest.

"I can do anything I want," Vader challenges. "Whaddya wanna do, punk, fight over it?"

By now, it's clear to me that I'm never going to touch the basket-



Punishing clotheslines and powerful forearm smashes are important parts of Vader's repertoire of moves in the ring ... and on the court. Just ask Hacksaw Duggan ... or Dave Rosenbaum.

ball. But then Vader does something completely uncharacteristic: He throws the ball into my gut and says, "Here, take the ball. 1-0."

I'm not sure if I should accept Vader's charity and risk incurring his wrath, or give the ball back to Vader and never see the ball again. I take the charity, but it doesn't matter. I'm 6'1". He's 6'5". I weigh 180 pounds. He weighs 450 pounds. I try to drive around him and quickly decide that's not the route I want to take. So I pull up for a 15-footer, and Vader's in my face

again. Unfortunately, I've stopped dribbling, leaving a sure-to-be-blocked shot as my only option.

Vader blocks the shot back into my nose. Yes, it hurts.

And I never see the ball again, although I develop a very nice little relationship with the concrete. Everything's a contact sport to Vader, including basketball, and nothing's done for fun.

"Have a good time?" Vader asks as he shakes my hand. "Hope you got your story. Later."

No way. □

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# The Insider

(Continued from page 14)



Dusty Rhodes was elected into the WCW Hall Of Fame. Why? What good did he really contribute to professional wrestling? I think all of his dishonors should be considered before he is immortalized.

to win some titles. But shouldn't an overbearing ego, pompous pandering, and a splotch the size of Cincinnati somehow disqualify him from ring immortality?

They keep Pete Rose out of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame, don't they? Rhodes once dressed up as a plumber! He impersonated a bee! He ate his own weight in blueberry pancakes! Not enough, you say? Wanna play hardball? How about ... he spawned Dustin?

In some states, that offense alone could land a fellow in jail.

**NEWS ITEM: Orlando Magic signs Hulk Hogan.**

An intriguing prospect, ain't it?

Hogan's very visible and he's excellent at self-promotion. His pandering presence at recent Magic basketball games raises this question: Could the "Huckster" strap on a pair of Nikes and actually compete in the NBA?

"If you're talking about the National Basket Weaving Association, maybe," said one wrestler who played basketball in college. "I've seen Hogan shoot the ball. It ain't pretty."

Neither is his wrestling, but the buffoon has done okay for himself.

**NEWS ITEM: Angelo Poffo gets his butt kicked.**

Basically, Poffo deserved the beating he got at the hands of Ric Flair, Big Van Vader, and Arn Anderson at Slamboree. If you're going to enter a wrestling ring, you must be fully prepared to get pounded. To his credit, Poffo, a mean dude in his day, isn't complaining too much, although his son is getting as much mileage out of the incident as he can.

"How can they beat up a 70-year-old man?" Randy Savage shrieked after the match. Okay, maybe he has a point. Yes, Poffo stuck his wrinkled old face where it had no business, but the guy already has one foot in the grave.

Beating up helpless old men is a public relations no-no, not that Flair gives a damn what people think. It doesn't look good for the "Nature Boy," whose comebacks are reaching a point of diminishing returns.

This time the geeks are right: Flair, Vader, and Anderson should have taken their frustration out on Savage and Hogan. You want to pick on Poffo? Next time, spike his Geritol with Ex-Lax.

**NEWS ITEM: Road Warrior Hawk returns.**

On second thought, who cares? Together, The Road Warriors were invincible; separately, they're invisible. Hawk should have returned with a new identity, a new rap. He should claim a new lineage, become an Indian guru, or an Australian aborigine out to avenge past wrongs. Hawk is dull. Hawk is tired. Hawk: Go home. □



Road Warrior Hawk attacks ... um ... Meng. Yeah, that's right, Meng. Forgive me if I have trouble remembering details about Hawk's singles career.

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## On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)



Bobby Eaton and Steve Keirn formed a team called Bad Attitude that lasted about two or three months. He expects his partnership with Regal to last much longer. We'll see.

ance," Lord Steven Regal declared. "Pedigree has its obligations."

I looked at Earl Robert Eaton, who only months before I saw sucking down a few dozen ribs at a Nashville barbecue joint—you know, when he was just plain old Bobby Eaton, the country boy from Huntsville, Alabama.

"What's your excuse?" I asked that wrestler formerly known as Bobby.

"You never did understand tag team relationships, dear lady," he said. "In order for Lord Steven and I to bond properly, it is imperative that we be on the same page physically and spiritually. Quality time spent in quiet repose supplements the time we spend training in the ring."

Eaton's credibility was severely compromised by the gelatinous mud dripping down his face. I

wanted to keep walking and forget I ever saw these two lunatics, but spa or no spa, I was still a journalist. "How does impersonating an English nobleman bring you two closer together?"

"Robert is impersonating no one," Regal answered for his partner. "The Queen mum has given me the power to confer title upon anyone, and I have made him an Earl."

"That's right, Elizabeth," Bobby smiled, mud now dripping into his open mouth. "I'm an Earl. I have land and everything."

"Come on, Robert," Regal said. "It's time for our massages."

"Actually, I'm scheduled for loofah aromatherapy," his Earl-dom differed.

"Yes, of course you are," Regal said. "We had better go. Too much time around commoners will compromise our focus."

And off they went. This was too weird. I had no choice but to head back to the sulfurous mud and another two-hour massage session with Lars. Life can be tough, you know. Later, when I was alone in my room, I called The Nasty Boys and filled them in on the whereabouts of the number-one contenders to their title.

"That sounds about right to me," laughed Brian Knobs. "I mean, their bodies need a good cleaning before we can clean their freakin' clocks."

Jerry Sags had an even better line. "I'm happy they're getting a

mudbath before we can give them their bloodbath. I love the sound of that, don't you, Liz?" I suppose I did.

That night, The Blue Bloods invited me to dinner. Over pad thai and chicken satay, Lord Regal explained why a man like himself belonged in a place like Geyser Ranch.

"You don't understand British noblemen," Regal said. "During our great campaigns in India and South Africa, we made sure to bring a dose of civility to the most hostile and inhospitable terrain. I'm just continuing a grand tradition. I will battle The Nasty Boys, but I will do so with a rosy complexion."

Later, while Regal was in the bathroom—or the water closet, as he prefers to call it—Eaton confided that he felt a little uncomfortable with the name change, but thought Regal was a major talent and that together they could do some real damage.

"I'll go along with anything for a while," he said, "as long as I see results. The guy has very enlightened ideas about life, and he's a helluva wrestler."

The next morning I ran into them at the juice bar.

"We shall see you in Atlanta, Ms. Hunter," Regal said, sucking down a four-ounce shot of wheatgrass juice. "With the title belts around our waists, I assure you."

And then they were off like a cavalry charge, on a 10-mile run with full backpacks through the 115-degree desert heat. "It's all part of the program, Elizabeth," Eaton said with a puzzled look on his face. "I told you he has some very, um, strange ideas about things."

Maybe spending a month with Ellner wasn't so bad after all. □



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## Savage's Vow

(Continued from page 49)

might have been permanent; days later, he still was walking with a cane and a noticeable limp.

"I'll be fine," Poffo said. "I took my chances, and that's what happened. I knew by jumping into that ring and helping my son that I might get hurt. And I did. But I did what I had to do. To tell you the truth, what Flair did to me didn't bother me. I would've beaten the hell out of Flair if I was given the chance."

But he wasn't given the chance—and won't be. The task of revenge belongs to the younger Poffo, whose distaste for Anderson, Flair, and Vader has become so immeasurable that Hulk Hogan—not exactly one of wrestling's most cogent spokesmen—had to put Savage's emotions into perspective.

"He's madder than I've ever seen anyone," Hogan said. "Just imagine, he was right there when those animals attacked his father. We always knew those guys had no respect for anyone, but this time they went too far. 'Macho's' mad, but that's good. He *should* be mad, and he should be channeling all his energies into making those three pay for what happened at Slamboree. I'm going to help him any way I can. He's helped me plenty of times, now I'm going to help him. I'm pretty mad, too."

No game plan for revenge is necessary. Savage wouldn't mind if WCW keeps it simple.

"Put all three of them in a cage with me, I don't care," he said. "Just let me have at them with no referees, no disqualifications, no rules. I don't care if I win or if I



Two decades ago, Poffo (right) was a fine wrestler on his own. "I would have beaten the hell out of Flair if given the chance," he said after the Slamboree incident.

lose. This isn't about winning or losing, this is about revenge. It's about getting even. You know what, brother? It's about duty."

That wasn't all Savage wanted. He had one last condition for any subsequent matches with Flair, Vader, and Anderson.

"I want my dad to be able to see me get revenge. Every time I

wrestle one of those maggots, I want him to be able to see the hurt I put on them. I want him to see it in their faces. I don't care if it's on TV or if he's in the arena watching. He deserves that kind of satisfaction."

Next time, it might be Flair, Vader, and Anderson shedding the tears. □

# Inside Wrestling

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# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

- 1—**STING**  
(5) U.S. heavyweight champion
- 2—**BRET HART**  
(6) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
- 3—**MABEL**  
(-) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

- 4—**RIC FLAIR**  
(13) No. 4 contender: WCW World title
- 5—**SAVIO VEGA**  
(-) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
- 6—**SHAWN MICHAELS**  
(11) No. 5 contender: WWF World title
- 7—**HULK HOGAN**  
(2) WCW World champion

- 8—**JEFF JARRETT**  
(3) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 9—**DIESEL**  
(1) WWF World champion
- 10—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
(10) No. 3 contender: WCW World title
- 11—**RAZOR RAMON**  
(4) No. 9 contender: WWF World title

- 12—**THE RENEGADE**  
(-) WCW TV champion
- 13—**THE SANDMAN**  
(15) ECW heavyweight champion
- 14—**THE UNDERTAKER**  
(7) No. 6 contender: WWF World title
- 15—**BUDDY LANDELL**  
(-) Smoky Mountain champion

## WCW

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
(1) 275, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**STING**  
(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**BIG VAN VADER**  
(4) 450, Denver, CO

- 4—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
(6) 237, Sarasota, FL
- 5—**RIC FLAIR**  
(5) 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—**THE RENEGADE**  
(-) 256, parts unknown
- 7—**ALEX WRIGHT**  
(9) 222, Berlin, Germany

- 8—**MENG**  
(12) 294, Tonga
- 9—**ARN ANDERSON**  
(2) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 10—**PAUL ORNDORFF**  
(13) 253, Brandon, FL
- 11—**BRIAN PILLMAN**  
(14) 226, Cincinnati, OH

- 12—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
(-) 280, Glens Falls, NY
- 13—**STEVE AUSTIN**  
(15) 241, Dallas, TX
- 14—**BUBBA ROGERS**  
(8) 310, Cobb County, GA
- 15—**KAMALA**  
(-) 345, Uganda

## WWF

- 1—**DIESEL**  
(1) 356, Las Vegas, NV
- 2—**JEFF JARRETT**  
(2) 230, Nashville, TN
- 3—**MABEL**  
(14) 503, Harlem, NY

- 4—**BRET HART**  
(5) 234, Calgary, Alberta
- 5—**SAVIO VEGA**  
(-) 268, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 6—**SHAWN MICHAELS**  
(9) 234, San Antonio, TX
- 7—**THE UNDERTAKER**  
(6) 328, parts unknown

- 8—**SID VICIOUS**  
(4) 318, West Memphis, AR
- 9—**BAM BAM BIGELOW**  
(13) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 10—**RAZOR RAMON**  
(3) 287, Miami, FL
- 11—**BOB HOLLY**  
(15) 231, Talladega, AL

- 12—**TATANKA**  
(-) 250, Pembroke, NC
- 13—**JEAN-PIERRE LAFITTE**  
(7) 255, Montreal, Quebec
- 14—**MAN MOUNTAIN ROCK**  
(-) 350, Iowa City, IA
- 15—**ADAM BOMB**  
(10) 292, Harrisburg, PA

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**SHAWN MICHAELS**  
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**  
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 3—**STING**  
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

- 4—**DIESEL**  
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 5—**BRET HART**  
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
- 6—**THE UNDERTAKER**  
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
- 7—**RAZOR RAMON**  
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

- 8—**BAM BAM BIGELOW**  
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
- 9—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular
- 10—**LEX LUGER**  
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular
- 11—**THE RENEGADE**  
Last issue: No. 12 Most Popular

- 12—**DAVEY BOY SMITH**  
Last issue: No. 13 Most Popular
- 13—**SAVIO VEGA**  
Last issue: unrated
- 14—**TONY ANTHONY**  
Last issue: No. 11 Most Popular
- 15—**JERRY LAWLER**  
Last issue: unrated

## MOST HATED

- 1—**SID VICIOUS**  
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**  
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
- 3—**BOB BACKLUND**  
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

- 4—**JERRY LAWLER**  
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated
- 5—**JEFF JARRETT**  
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
- 6—**MABEL**  
Last issue: No. 12 Most Hated
- 7—**HAKUSHI**  
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

- 8—**KAMA**  
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated
- 9—**ARN ANDERSON**  
Last issue: unrated
- 10—**BUBBA ROGERS**  
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated
- 11—**BIG VAN VADER**  
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

- 12—**BUDDY LANDELL**  
Last issue: No. 11 Most Hated
- 13—**TATANKA**  
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated
- 14—**OWEN HART**  
Last issue: No. 13 Most Hated
- 15—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**  
Last issue: No. 15 Most Hated

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**OWEN HART & YOKOZUNA**  
(2) WWF World tag team champions
- 2—**BUNKHOUSE BUCK & DICK SLATER**  
(-) WCW World tag team champions
- 3—**LEX LUGER & DAVEY BOY SMITH**  
(10) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 4—**HARLEM HEAT**  
(3) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 5—**THE NASTY BOYS**  
(1) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

- 6—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**  
(6) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title
- 7—**PUBLIC ENEMY**  
(8) ECW tag team champions
- 8—**AL SNOW & UNIBOMB**  
(7) Smoky Mountain tag team champions
- 9—**PG-13**  
(9) USWA tag team champions
- 10—**BOBBY EATON & LORD STEVEN REGAL**  
(-) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

- 11—**MEN ON A MISSION**  
(15) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 12—**THE SMOKIN' GUNNS**  
(5) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 13—**ELI & JACOB BLU**  
(4) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 14—**TECHNO TEAM 2000**  
(-) No. 5 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 15—**THE BUSHWHACKERS**  
(-) No. 6 contenders: WWF World tag title

*These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.*

**For period ended July 2, 1995**

**ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS  
(September 9, 1993; from The Patriot & The Eagle; Omiya, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION:** MITSU HARU MISAWA  
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** DAN KROFFAT  
(July 12, 1994; from Masanobu Fuchi; Kagoshima, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** MITSU HARU MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI  
(December 10, 1994; beat Johnny Ace & Steve Williams in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION:** MITSU HARU MISAWA  
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION:** MINAMI TOYOTA  
(August 24, 1994; beat Yoko Inoue; Tokyo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION:** KAORU ITO  
(May 4, 1994; beat Rie Tamada in tournament final; Toda, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION:** AJA KONG  
(November 26, 1992; from Bull Nakano; Kawasaki, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** CANDY OKUTSU  
(December 6, 1993; from Chapparita Asari; Osaka, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
MINAMI TOYOTA & TOSHIYO YAMADA  
(December 6, 1993; from Dynamite Kansai & Mayumi Ozaki; Osaka, Japan)

**ALL-STATE WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** E.F. HUTTON  
(May 25, 1995; from Tony Prichard; Alcoa, TN)

**ALL-STATE WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** KEITH & GREG HART  
(June 15, 1995; from The Intimidators; Alcoa, TN)

**AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** T. RANTULA  
(March 26, 1994; from Rip Sawyer; Johnsonburg, PA)

**AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** LORD ZOLTAN  
(October 1, 1994; from Johnny Graham; Lewistown, PA)

**ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** THE SANDMAN  
(April 15, 1995; from Shane Douglas; Philadelphia, PA)

**ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** RAVEN & STEVE RICHARDS  
(June 30, 1995; from Public Enemy; Jim Thorpe, PA)

**ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION:** EDDY GUERRERO  
(April 8, 1995; from 2 Cold Scorpio; Philadelphia, PA)

**FLORIDA WRESTLING COUNCIL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** BUTCH LONG  
(January 6, 1995; from Navy Seal; Tampa, FL)

**ICW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** MARC ASH  
(February 2, 1995; from Mike Majors; Plymouth, NC)

**IWC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** KONINAN  
(April 2, 1994; from Cien Caras; Reynosa, Mexico)

**IWGP CHAMPION:** THE GREAT MUTA  
(May 3, 1995; from Shinya Hashimoto; Fukuoka, Japan)

**IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** TITLE VACANT  
(Most recently held by Hiroshi Hase & The Great Muta)

**IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** KOJI KANEMOTO  
(June 14, 1995; from Sabu; Tokyo, Japan)

**MID-EASTERN WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:**  
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT  
(March 26, 1995; from Mad Dog O'Malley; Essex, MD)

**MID-EASTERN WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** MODELS INC.  
(April 23, 1995; from Sweet 'n' Sour; Essex, MD)

**MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** MARTY JANNETTY  
(May 20, 1995; from Bruiser Bedlam; Taylor, MI)

**MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
RAY ROBERTS & AL SNOW  
(January 21, 1995; from Chris Carter & Mohammad Saad; Taylor, MI)

**NWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** DAN SEVERN  
(February 24, 1995; from Chris Candido; Erlanger, KY)

**OZARK MOUNTAIN WRESTLING NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION:** THE COLORADO KID  
(April 10, 1995; from Cactus Jack; Jonesboro, AR)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION:** MITSU HARU MISAWA  
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
MITSU HARU MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI  
(December 10, 1994; beat Johnny Ace & Steve Williams in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

**POWER ZONE WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** BONECRUSHER STEVE  
(January 15, 1995; from Psycho; Moore, OK)

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** STAR RYDER  
(June 3, 1995; from Terry Austin; Albemarle, NC)

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** TERRY AUSTIN & AUSTIN STEELE  
(June 9, 1995; from Damage Inc.; Hamlet, NC)

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** BUDDY LANDELL  
(April 8, 1995; from Bobby Blaze; Johnson City, TN)

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** AL SNOW & UNIBOMB  
(April 7, 1995; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Pikeville, KY)

**TRI-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** RICHIE DYE  
(January 13, 1995; won battle royal for vacant title; Rossville, GA)

**TRI-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** KEITH HART & CHRIS STEELHEART  
(January 6, 1995; from Roger Sartain & Jimmy Sharpe; Rossville, GA)

**USWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** JERRY LAWLER  
(May 1, 1995; from Razor Ramon; Memphis, TN)

**USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION:** BILLY JACK HAYNES  
(June 26, 1995; from Brian Christopher; Memphis, TN)

**USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** PG-13  
(May 1, 1995; from Brickhouse Brown & The Gambler; Memphis, TN)

**WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION:** THE RENEGADE  
(June 18, 1995; from Arn Anderson; Dayton, OH)

**WCW U.S. CHAMPION:** STING  
(June 18, 1995; beat Meng in tournament final; Dayton, OH)

**WCW WORLD CHAMPION:** HULK HOGAN  
(July 17, 1994; from Ric Flair; Orlando, FL)

**WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** THE NASTY BOYS  
(May 21, 1995; from Harlem Heat; St. Petersburg, FL)

**WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** CHRIS EVANS  
(June 3, 1995; title previously held up; Clementon, NJ)

**WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** BAD ATTITUDE  
(June 3, 1995; from Doomsday Express; Clementon, NJ)

**WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION:** JEFF JARRETT  
(May 21, 1995; from Razor Ramon; Trois-Rivieres, Quebec)

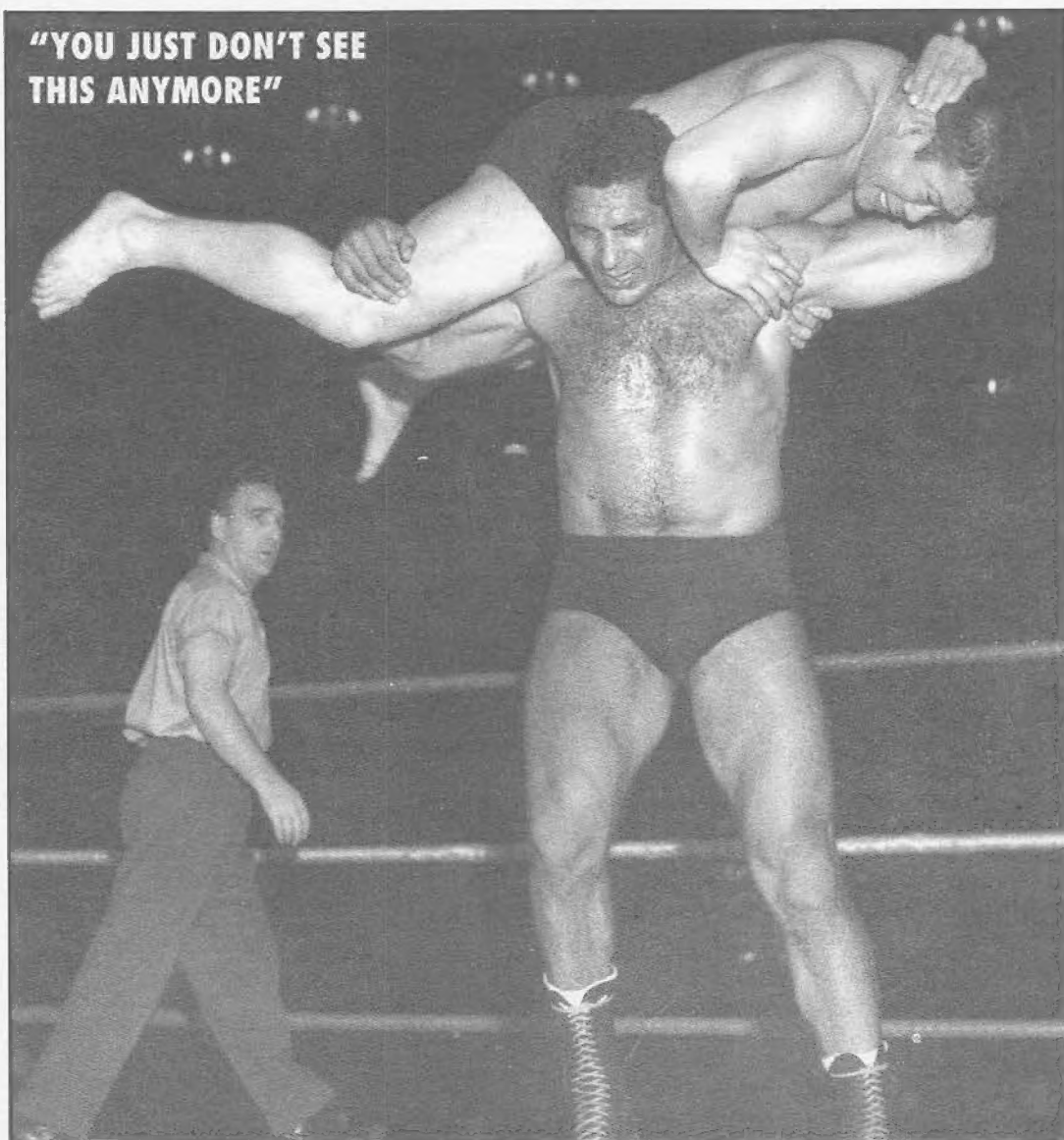
**WWF WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION:** ALUNDRA BLAYZE  
(April 3, 1995; from Bull Nakano; Poughkeepsie, NY)

**WWF WORLD CHAMPION:** DIESEL  
(November 26, 1994; from Bob Backlund; New York, NY)

**WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** OWEN HART & YOKOZUNA  
(April 2, 1995; from The Smokin' Gunns; Hartford, CT)

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

## This Month In Wrestling History



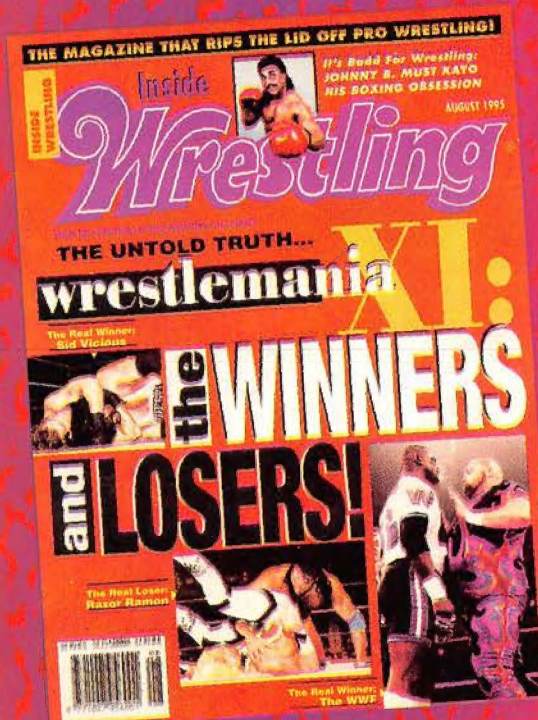
### **ILIO DePAOLO vs. DUKE KEOMUKA September 1964**

Thirty-one years ago, the airplane spin was actually a finishing move used by many wrestlers, including Ilio DePaolo. Now, you're lucky if you see it used a half-dozen times per year. DePaolo, who died at age 68 on May 10, 1995, in Blasdell, New York, after being struck by a car on rainy night, often bragged he had perfected the move. After he retired from wrestling, DePaolo opened a restaurant that became a popular hangout for Buffalo, New York, athletes and sports fans.



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